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**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

2005-228-C

**ALLTEL SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.**

**&**

**BELLSOUTH LONG DISTANCE, INC.**

2005 NOV 2 11 51  
ALLTEL SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.  
BELL SOUTH LONG DISTANCE, INC.

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### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

This Agreement ("Agreement") is between, BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. ("BSLD") a Delaware corporation, and ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc. ("ALLTEL") a South Carolina corporation (collectively the "Parties").

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), the Parties wish to establish terms for the provision of certain services and Ancillary Functions as designated in the Attachments hereto for the purpose of determining the rates, terms, and conditions for the interconnection of the Parties' Telecommunications Networks within the State of South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This Agreement, in accordance with §§251 and 252 of the Act, sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which ALLTEL will provide (a) services for interconnection, and (b) Ancillary Functions to BSLD. The specific services, functions, or facilities that ALLTEL agrees to provide are those specifically identified in appendixes attached to this Agreement, and executed simultaneously with these general terms and conditions. Further, this Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and prices under which BSLD will provide services to ALLTEL, where applicable.
- 1.2 This Agreement includes and incorporates herein the Attachments of this Agreement and all accompanying Appendices, Addenda and Exhibits.
- 1.3 The Parties acknowledge that by entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties have not waived or relinquished any applicable exemptions that are provided by or available under the Act, including but not limited to those described in §251(f) of the Act, or under state law.
- 1.4 Prior to execution of this Agreement, BSLD agrees to provide ALLTEL in writing BSLD's CLEC certification for the state covered by this Agreement prior to the filing of this Agreement with the appropriate Commission for approval.

#### **2.0 Effective Date**

- 2.1 The effective date of this Agreement will be the last signature date that both Parties have executed the Agreement. If this Agreement is not approved by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission"), the Parties agree to work cooperatively to resolve all issues identified by the Commission. In the event that this Agreement must be approved by the Commission, the Agreement will become effective upon Commission approval.

#### **3.0 Intervening Law**

- 3.1 This Agreement is entered into as a result of private negotiations between the Parties, acting pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), and/or other applicable state laws or Commission rulings. If the actions of state or federal legislative bodies, courts, or regulatory agencies of competent jurisdiction invalidate, modify, or stay the enforcement of any provisions of

this Agreement, the affected provision will be invalidated, modified, or stayed as required by action of the legislative body, court, or regulatory agency. In such event, the Parties shall in good faith attempt to arrive at an agreement respecting the modifications to the Agreement required. If negotiations fail, disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation of the actions required or provisions affected by such governmental actions may be resolved pursuant to any process available to the Parties under law, provided that the Parties may mutually agree to use the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement.

#### **4.0 Term of Agreement**

- 4.1 The Parties agree to the provisions of this Agreement for an initial term of two (2) years from the Effective Date of this Agreement, and thereafter on a month to month basis, unless terminated or modified pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 4.2 Either Party may request for this Agreement to be renegotiated upon the expiration of the initial two (2) year term or upon any termination of this Agreement. The Party desiring renegotiation shall provide written notice to the other Party. Not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of said notice, the receiving Party will acknowledge receipt of the written notice and the Parties will commence negotiation, which shall be conducted in good faith, except in cases in which this Agreement has been terminated for Default pursuant to Section 4.6 or has been terminated for any reason not prohibited by law pursuant to Section 4.5.
- 4.3 If, within one hundred and thirty-five (135) days of commencing the negotiation referred to in Section 4.2 above, the Parties are unable to negotiate new terms, conditions and prices for a Subsequent Agreement, the Parties may extend the negotiations window or either Party may petition the applicable state Commission to establish appropriate terms, conditions and prices for the Subsequent Agreement pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252. Should the Commission decline jurisdiction, either Party may petition the FCC under the Act or resort to a commercial provider of arbitration services.
- 4.4 If, as of the expiration of this Agreement, the Parties have not agreed to an extension as set forth in Section 4.3 or either Party has not petitioned the applicable Commission pursuant to Section 4.3 or a Subsequent Agreement has not been executed by the Parties, this Agreement shall terminate. Upon termination of this Agreement, ALLTEL shall continue to offer services to BSLD pursuant to the terms, conditions and rates set forth in ALLTEL's then current standard interconnection agreement. In the event that ALLTEL's standard interconnection agreement becomes effective as between the Parties, the Parties may continue to negotiate a Subsequent Agreement or arbitrate disputed issues to reach a Subsequent Agreement as set forth in Section 4.3 above, and the terms of such Subsequent Agreement shall be effective as of the effective date as stated in the Subsequent Agreement.
- 4.5 After completion of the initial two (2) year term, this Agreement may be terminated by either Party for any reason not prohibited by law upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other Party. By mutual agreement, the Parties may amend this Agreement in writing to modify its terms.
- 4.6 In the event of Default, as defined in this Section 4.6, the non-defaulting Party may terminate this Agreement provided that the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing ("Default Notice") of the event of the alleged Default and the defaulting Party does not cure the alleged Default within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the Default Notice thereof. Default is defined as:
  - 4.6.1 Either Party's insolvency or initiation of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings by or against the Party;



- 4.6.2 A final non-appealable decision under Section 9.0, Dispute Resolution that a Party has materially breached any of the material terms or conditions hereof, including the failure to make any undisputed payment when due; or
- 4.6.3 A Party has notified the other Party in writing of the other Party's material breach of any of the material terms hereof, and the default remains uncured for sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of such notice, and neither Party has commenced Formal Dispute Resolution as prescribed in Section 9.4 of this Agreement by the end of the cure period; provided, however, that if the alleged material breach involves a material interruption to, or a material degradation of, the E911 services provided under this Agreement, the cure period shall be five (5) calendar days from receipt of such notice.

## **5.0 Assignment**

- 5.1 Neither Party may assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement except under such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable to the other Party and with such Party's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably restricted, delayed or withheld. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, a Party may assign, subcontract or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement upon notice to the other Party, but without needing the other Party's consent, to a subsidiary, affiliate, or parent company, including any firm, corporation, or entity which the Party controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, or has a majority interest in, or to any entity which succeeds to all or substantially all of its assets whether by merger, sale, or otherwise. Nothing in this Section is intended to impair the right of either Party to utilize subcontractors..
- 5.2 Neither Party shall assign this Agreement to any Affiliate or non-affiliated entity unless either (1) the assigning Party pays all undisputed bills, past due and current, under this Agreement, or (2) the assignee expressly assumes liability for payment of such bills.
- 5.3 In the event that BSLD makes any corporate name change (whether it involves a merger, consolidation, assignment or transfer, and including addition or deletion of a d/b/a), change in OCN/AOCN, or makes or accepts a transfer or assignment of interconnection trunks or facilities (including leased facilities), or a change in any other CLEC identifier (collectively, a "CLEC Change"), BSLD shall submit written notice to ALLTEL within thirty (30) days of the first action taken to implement such CLEC Change.
- 5.4 In the event of an assignment as described in Section 5.1 above, the Parties shall negotiate an implementation plan to effectuate any changes. In addition, BSLD shall compensate ALLTEL for any service order charges as specified in ALLTEL's General Subscriber/Local or Access tariffs, associated with such CLEC Change.

## **6.0 Confidential and Proprietary Information**

- 6.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, confidential information means confidential or proprietary technical, customer, end user, network, or business information disclosed by one Party (the "Discloser") to the other Party (the "Recipient"), which is disclosed by one Party to the other in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations or the term of this Agreement ("Confidential Information"). Such Confidential Information shall automatically be deemed proprietary to the Discloser and subject to this §6.0, unless otherwise confirmed in writing by the Discloser. All other information which is indicated and marked as Confidential Information at the time of disclosure shall also be treated as Confidential Information under §6.0 of this Agreement. The Recipient agrees (i) to use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, (ii) to hold it in confidence and disclose it to no one other than its employees or agents having a need to know for the purpose of performing under this Agreement, and (iii) to safeguard it

from unauthorized use or disclosure using at least the same degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information. If the Recipient wishes to disclose the Discloser's Confidential Information to a third-party agent or consultant, such disclosure must be agreed to in writing by the Discloser, and the agent or consultant must have executed a written agreement of nondisclosure and nonuse comparable to the terms of this Section.

- 6.2 The Recipient may make copies of Confidential Information only as reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such copies will be subject to the same restrictions and protections as the original and will bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained on the original.
- 6.3 The Recipient agrees to return all Confidential Information to the Discloser in tangible form received from the Discloser, including any copies made by the Recipient within thirty (30) days after a written request is delivered to the Recipient, or to destroy all such Confidential Information if directed to do so by Discloser except for Confidential Information that the Recipient reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement. If either Party loses or makes an unauthorized disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information, it will notify such other Party immediately and use reasonable efforts to retrieve the lost or wrongfully disclosed information.
- 6.4 The Recipient will have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information: (i) which was in the possession of the Recipient free of restriction prior to its receipt from the Discloser; (ii) after it becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by the Recipient, (iii) after it is rightfully acquired by the Recipient free of restrictions on its disclosure, or (iv) after it is independently developed by personnel of the Recipient to whom the Discloser's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed. In addition, either Party will have the right to disclose Confidential Information to any mediator, arbitrator, state or federal regulatory body, or a court in the conduct of any mediation, arbitration or approval of this Agreement, as long as, in the absence of an applicable protective order, the Discloser has been previously notified by the Recipient in time sufficient for the Recipient to undertake lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information and for Discloser to have reasonable time to seek or negotiate a protective order before or with any applicable mediator, arbitrator, state or regulatory body or a court.
- 6.5 The Parties recognize that an individual end user may simultaneously seek to become or be a customer of both Parties. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the ability of either Party to use customer specific information lawfully obtained from end users or sources other than the Discloser, subject to applicable rules governing use of Customer Propriety Network Information (CPNI).
- 6.6 Each Party's obligations to safeguard Confidential Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.
- 6.7 Except as otherwise expressly provided elsewhere in this Agreement, no license is hereby granted with respect to any patent, trademark, or copyright, nor is any such license implied solely by virtue of the disclosure of any Confidential Information.
- 6.8 Each Party agrees that the Discloser may be irreparably injured by a disclosure in breach of this Agreement by the Recipient or its representatives and the Discloser will be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any breach or threatened breach of the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement. Such remedies will not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for a breach of this Agreement, but will be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.

**7.0 Liability and Indemnification**

**7.1 Limitation of Liabilities**

With respect to any claim or suit for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays or errors occurring in the course of furnishing any service hereunder, the liability of the Party furnishing the affected service, if any, shall be the greater of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) or the aggregate annual charges imposed on the other Party for the period of that particular service during which such mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays or errors occurs and continues; provided, however, that any such mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays, or errors which are caused by the gross negligence or willful, wrongful act or omission of the complaining Party or which arise from the use of the complaining Party's facilities or equipment shall not result in the imposition of any liability whatsoever upon the other Party furnishing service.

**7.2 Insurance**

Each Party will maintain any insurance, self-insurance or bonds to comply with federal, state, and local laws.

**7.3 No Consequential Damages**

**EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT , NEITHER PARTY WILL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT. EACH PARTY HEREBY RELEASES THE OTHER PARTY (AND SUCH OTHER PARTY'S SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS) FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION WILL LIMIT EITHER PARTY'S LIABILITY TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE) OR (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

**7.4 Obligation to Indemnify**

- 7.4.1 Each Party shall be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims, losses, suits, demands, damages, costs, expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees ("Claims"), asserted, suffered, or made by third parties arising from (i) any act or omission of the Indemnifying Party in connection with its performance or non-performance under his Agreement; and (ii) provision of the Indemnifying Party's services or equipment, including but not limited to claims arising from the provision of the Indemnifying Party's services to its end users (e.g., claims for interruption of service, quality of service or billing disputes) unless such act or omission was caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnified Party; and (iii) a claim that the services and/or equipment provided by the Indemnifying Party infringe a U.S. patent, U.S. copyright, U.S. trademark or other U.S. proprietary right arising solely from the use

by the Indemnified Party of such service and/or equipment in the manner contemplated under this Agreement. Each Party shall also be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims and damages of persons for services furnished by the indemnifying Party or by any of its subcontractors, under worker's compensation laws or similar statutes.

- 7.4.2 Each Party, as an Indemnifying Party agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Party from any claims, demands or suits that assert invasion of privacy or confidentiality of any person or persons caused or claimed to be caused, directly or indirectly, by the Indemnifying Party's employees and equipment associated with the provision of any service herein. This provision includes but is not limited to suits arising from unauthorized disclosure of the end user's name, address or telephone number.
- 7.4.3 ALLTEL makes no warranties, express or implied, concerning BSLD's (or any third party's) rights with respect to intellectual property (including without limitation, patent, copyright and trade secret rights) or contract rights associated with BSLD's interconnection with ALLTEL's network use or receipt of ALLTEL services. The foregoing does not relieve ALLTEL of its indemnification obligations as set forth in this Section 7.3.1
- 7.4.4 When the lines or services of other companies and carriers are used in establishing connections to and/or from points not reached by a Party's lines, neither Party shall be liable for any act or omission of the other companies or carriers.

#### **7.5 Obligation to Defend; Notice; Cooperation**

Whenever a claim arises for indemnification under this Section (the "Claim"), the relevant Indemnitee, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party will not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such Claim. The Indemnifying Party will have the right to defend against such Claim in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnitee of acceptance of the defense of such Claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Except as set forth below, such notice to the relevant Indemnitee will give the Indemnifying Party full authority to defend, adjust, compromise, or settle such Claim with respect to which such notice has been given, except to the extent that any compromise or settlement might prejudice the Intellectual Property Rights of the relevant Indemnities. The Indemnifying Party will consult with the relevant Indemnitee prior to any compromise or settlement that would affect the Intellectual Property Rights or other rights of any Indemnitee, and the relevant Indemnitee will have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and, at such Indemnitee's sole cost, to take over such defense of such Claim. Provided, however, that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the relevant Indemnitee against any damages, costs, expenses, or liabilities, including without limitation, attorneys' fees, in excess of such refused compromise or settlement. With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the relevant Indemnitee will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnitee and also will be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnitee's expense. In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified Claim as provided above, the relevant Indemnitee will have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, and the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for all costs associated with Indemnitee's defense of such Claim including court costs, and any settlement or damages awarded the third party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such Claim.

**8.0 Payment of Rates and Late Payment Charges**

- 8.1 ALLTEL, at its discretion may require BSLD to provide ALLTEL a security deposit to ensure payment of BSLD's account. The security deposit must be an amount equal to three (3) months anticipated charges (including, but not limited to, recurring, non-recurring, termination charges and advance payments), as reasonably determined by ALLTEL, for the interconnection, resale services, network elements, collocation or any other functions, facilities, products or services to be furnished by ALLTEL under this Agreement.
- 8.1.1 Such security deposit shall be a cash deposit or other form of security acceptable to ALLTEL. Any such security deposit may be held during the continuance of the service as security for the payment of any and all amounts accruing for the service.
- 8.1.2 If a security deposit is required, such security deposit shall be made prior to the activation of service.
- 8.1.3 The fact that a security deposit has been provided in no way relieves BSLD from complying with ALLTEL's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation nor does it constitute a waiver or modification of the regular practices of ALLTEL providing for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due ALLTEL.
- 8.1.4 ALLTEL reserves the right to increase the security deposit requirements when, in its sole judgment, circumstances so warrant and/or gross monthly billing has increased beyond the level initially used to determine the security deposit.
- 8.1.5 In the event that BSLD is in breach of this Agreement, service to BSLD may be terminated by ALLTEL, any security deposits applied to its account, and ALLTEL may pursue any other remedies available at law or equity.
- 8.1.6 In the case of a cash deposit, interest at a rate as set forth in the appropriate ALLTEL tariff shall be paid to BSLD during the possession of the security deposit by ALLTEL. Interest on a security deposit shall accrue annually and, if requested, shall be annually credited to BSLD by the accrual date.
- 8.2 ALLTEL may, but is not obligated to, draw on the cash deposit, as applicable, upon the occurrence of any one of the following events.
- 8.2.1 BSLD owes ALLTEL undisputed charges under this Agreement that are more than sixty (60) calendar days past due; or
- 8.2.2 BSLD admits its inability to pay its debts as such debts become due, has commenced a voluntary case (or has had an involuntary case commenced against it) under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or any other law relating to insolvency, reorganization, wind-up, composition or adjustment of debts or the like, has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors or, is subject to a receivership or similar proceeding; or
- 8.2.3 The expiration or termination of this Agreement with BSLD owing monies under this Agreement to ALLTEL.
- 8.3 Except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in this Agreement, the Parties will pay all rates and charges due and owing under this Agreement within thirty (30) days of the invoice date in immediately available funds. Amounts disputed pursuant to Section 9.1.1 need not be paid except as provided in Section 9.1.1. The Parties represent and covenant to each other that all

invoices will be promptly processed and mailed in accordance with the Parties' regular procedures and billing systems.

8.3.1 If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday following such Sunday or Holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday following such Saturday or Holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late penalty, as set forth in §8.5 below, will be assessed.

8.4 If the amount billed is received by the billing Party after the payment due date or if any portion of the payment is received by the billing Party in funds which are not immediately available to the billing Party, then a late payment charge will apply to the unpaid balance.

8.5 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement interest on overdue invoices will apply at the lesser of the highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains, or shall not exceed 0.0004930% compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains.

## **9.0 Dispute Resolution**

### **9.1 Notice of Disputes**

Notice of a valid contractual dispute must be in writing, specifically documenting the nature of the dispute, and must include a detailed description of the underlying dispute. Billing disputes must be submitted on the Billing Dispute Form contained in Appendix A or the dispute will not be accepted as a valid billing dispute and therefore rejected by the billing Party. The Billing Dispute Form must be completed with all fields populated by the disputing Party or the form will be rejected by the billing Party.

#### **9.1.1 Billing Disputes**

The disputing Party must submit billing disputes to the billing Party on the Billing Dispute Form contained in Appendix A by the due date on the disputed bill. The dispute form must be complete, with all fields populated with the required information for the billable element in dispute. If the Billing Dispute Form is not complete with all information, the dispute will be rejected by the billing Party. After receipt of a completed Billing Dispute Form, the billing Party will review to determine the accuracy of the billing dispute. If the billing Party determines the dispute is valid, the billing Party will credit the disputing Party's bill by the next bill date. If the billing Party determines the billing dispute is not valid, the disputing Party may escalate the dispute as outlined in section 9.1.1.1. If escalation of the billing dispute does not occur within the sixty (60) calendar days as outlined below, the disputing Party must remit payment for the disputed charge, including late payment charges, to the billing Party by the next bill date. The Parties will endeavor to resolve all billing disputes within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Billing Dispute Form. Nothing in Section 9.1.1 waives a Party's right to file a dispute after a billing date if a billing issue arises within twelve (12) months of the occurrence.

9.1.1.1 Resolution of the dispute is expected to occur at the first level of management, resulting in a recommendation for settlement of the dispute and closure of a

specific billing period. If the issues are not resolved within the allotted time frame, the following resolution procedure will be implemented:

- 9.1.1.1.1 If the dispute is not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Billing Dispute Form, the dispute will be escalated to the second level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution. If the dispute is not resolved within sixty (60) calendar days of the notification date, the dispute will be escalated to the third level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.
  - 9.1.1.1.2 If the dispute is not resolved within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of the Billing Dispute Form, the dispute will be escalated to the fourth level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.
  - 9.1.1.1.3 Each Party will provide to the other Party an escalation list for resolving billing disputes. The escalation list will contain the name, title, phone number, fax number and email address for each escalation point identified in this section 9.1.1.1.
  - 9.1.1.1.4 If the dispute is not resolved within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days of receipt of the Billing Dispute Form or either Party is not operating in good faith to resolve the dispute, the Formal Dispute Resolution process, outlined in section 9.4, may be invoked.
- 9.1.1.2 If the disputing Party disputes a charge and does not pay such charge by the payment due date, such charges shall be subject to late payment charges as set forth in subsection 8.3 above. If the disputing Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the disputing Party, the billing Party shall credit the bill of the disputing Party for the amount of the disputed charges, along with any late payment charges assessed, by the next billing cycle after the resolution of the dispute. Accordingly, if the disputing Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the billing Party, the disputing Party shall pay the billing Party the amount of the disputed charges and any associated late payment charges, by the next billing due date after the resolution of the dispute.
- 9.1.1.3 For purposes of this subsection 9.1.1, a billing dispute shall not include the refusal to pay other amounts owed to a Party pending resolution of the dispute. Claims by the disputing Party for damages of any kind will not be considered a Bona Fide Dispute for purposes of this subsection 9.1.1.
- 9.1.1.4 Once the billing dispute has been processed in accordance with subsection 9.1.1, the disputing Party will make immediate payment on any of the disputed amount owed to the billing Party, or the billing Party shall have the right to pursue normal treatment procedures. Any credits due to the disputing Party resulting from the Dispute process will be applied to the disputing Party's account by the billing Party immediately upon resolution of the dispute.
- 9.1.1.5 Neither Party shall bill the other Party for charges incurred more than twelve (12) months after the service is provided to the non-billing Party.

#### 9.1.2 All Other Disputes

All other disputes (*i.e.*, contractual disputes) shall be valid only if reasonable within the scope of this Agreement, and the applicable statute of limitations shall govern such disputes.

#### 9.2 Alternative to Litigation

- 9.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order, an injunction, or similar relief from the State Commission related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this Dispute Resolution process in Section 9 of this Agreement, the Parties agree to use the following Dispute Resolution procedure with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.
- 9.2.2 Each Party agrees to promptly notify the other Party in writing of a dispute and may in the Dispute Notice invoke the informal dispute resolution process described in Section 9.4. The Parties will endeavor to resolve the dispute within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the Dispute Notice.

**9.3 Informal Resolution of Disputes**

In the case of any dispute and upon receipt of a dispute notice each Party will appoint a duly authorized representative knowledgeable in telecommunications matters, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may, but are not obligated to, utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit. Unless otherwise provided herein, or upon the Parties' agreement, either Party may invoke formal dispute resolution procedures including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, not earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the dispute notice, provided the Party invoking the formal dispute resolution process has in good faith negotiated, or attempted to negotiate, with the other Party.

**9.4 Formal Dispute Resolution**

- 9.4.1 The Parties agree that all unresolved disputes arising under this Agreement, including without limitation, whether the dispute in question is subject to arbitration, may be submitted to the State Commission for resolution in accordance with its dispute resolution process and the outcome of such process will be binding on the Parties, subject to any right to appeal a decision reached by the State Commission under applicable law.
- 9.4.2 If the State Commission does not have or declines to accept jurisdiction over any dispute arising under this Agreement, the dispute may be submitted to binding arbitration by a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. A Party may demand such arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in those rules. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set out in this section or upon approval or order of the arbitrator. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond, to a maximum of any combination of thirty-five (35) (none of which may have subparts) of the following: interrogatories; demands to produce documents; requests for admission. Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within ninety (90) calendar days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitration shall be held in South Carolina unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties or required by the FCC. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties shall submit written briefs five days before



the hearing. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) calendar days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator has no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

- 9.4.3 Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures unless the State Commission, the FCC, or other presiding arbitrator, if any, rules otherwise. A Party seeking discovery shall reimburse the responding Party for the costs of production of documents (including search time and reproduction costs).

**9.5 Conflicts**

- 9.5.1 The Parties agree that the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement are not intended to conflict with applicable requirements of the Act or the State Commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement and do not preclude a Party from seeking relief under applicable rules or procedures of the State Commission.

**10.0 INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

**11.0 Notices**

- 11.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notice, consents, approvals, modifications, or other communications to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. Notice may also be effected by personal delivery or by overnight courier. All notices will be effective upon receipt, and should be directed to the following:

**If to BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.:**

President  
BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.  
400 Perimeter Center Terrace  
Suite 350  
Atlanta, GA 30346

**Copy to:**

General Counsel  
BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.  
400 Perimeter Center Terrace  
Suite 350  
Atlanta, GA 30346

**If to ALLTEL:**

Staff Manager – Wholesale Services  
One Allied Drive, B5F04-D  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

- 11.2 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days' prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

**12.0 Taxes**

- 12.1 Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges (hereinafter "Tax") levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. Purchasing Party may be exempted from certain taxes if purchasing Party provides proper documentation, e.g., reseller certificate, from the appropriate taxing authority. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party until such time as the purchasing Party presents a valid certification.
- 12.2 With respect to any purchase of services, facilities or other arrangements, if any Tax is required or permitted by applicable law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing Party for such Tax, (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing Party and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority, except as otherwise indicated below.
- 12.3 The Parties agree that each Party shall generally be responsible for collecting and remitting to the appropriate city, any franchise fees or taxes for use of city rights of way, in accordance with the terms of that Party's franchise agreement. In the event a city attempts to require both Parties to pay franchise fees on the same revenues with respect to resold services or unbundled network elements then the Parties agree to cooperate in opposing such double taxation.
- 12.4 With respect to any purchase hereunder of services, facilities or arrangements that are resold to a third party, if any Tax is imposed by applicable law on the end user in connection with any such purchase, then (i) the purchasing Party shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the end user and (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority. The purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party on an after-tax basis for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such tax to such authority.
- 12.5 If the providing Party fails to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any taxes properly billed, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the taxes, penalty and interest.
- 12.6 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from end users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from end users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party on an after-tax basis for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax

from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.

- 12.7 If the purchasing party determines that in its opinion any such taxes or fees are not payable, the providing party shall not bill such taxes or fees to the purchasing party if the purchasing party provides written certification, reasonably satisfactory to the providing party, stating that it is exempt or otherwise not subject to the tax or fee, setting forth the basis therefore, and satisfying any other requirements under applicable law. If any authority seeks to collect any such tax or fee that the purchasing party has determined and certified not to be payable, or any such tax or fee that was not billed by the providing party, the purchasing party shall have the right, at its own expense, to contest the same in good faith, in its own name or on the providing party's behalf. In any such contest, the purchasing party shall promptly furnish the providing party with copies of all filings in any proceeding, protest, or legal challenge, all rulings issued in connection therewith, and all correspondence between the purchasing party and the governmental authority.
- 12.8 In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.
- 12.9 If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon.
- 12.10 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing party's expense) the providing party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.
- 12.11 Each party shall notify the other party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a governmental authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.
- 12.12 The Purchasing Party shall have the right, at its own expense, to claim a refund or credit, in its own name or on the Providing Party's behalf, of any such tax or fee that it determines to have paid in error, and the Purchasing Party shall be entitled to any recovery thereof.
- 12.13 In any contest of a tax or fee by one Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to pursue the contest. Further, the other Party shall be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket copying and travel expenses incurred in assisting in such contest.
- 12.14 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other Party under this §12.0, shall be made in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. All notices shall be effective upon receipt. All notices sent pursuant to this Section shall be directed to the following:

To ALLTEL:

Director State and Local Taxes  
ALLTEL Communications, Inc.  
One Allied Drive

Post Office Box 2177  
Little Rock, AR 72203

**Copy to:**

Staff Manager - Wholesale Services  
ALLTEL Communications, Inc.  
One Allied Drive B5F04 -D  
P.O. Box 2177  
Little Rock, AR 72203

**To BellSouth Long Distance:**

President  
BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.  
400 Perimeter Center Terrace, Suite 350  
Atlanta, GA 30346

**Copy to:**

BellSouth Corporation, Inc.  
Attn: Legal Department  
1155 Peachtree Street, Suite 1800  
Atlanta, GA 30309

- 12.8 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days' prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

**13.0 Force Majeure**

- 13.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; epidemics, riots, insurrections, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, nuclear accidents, floods, or labor unrest, including, without limitation strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts or delays caused by the other Party or by other service or equipment vendors; or any other similar circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable commercial efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

**14.0 Publicity**

- 14.1 The Parties agree not to use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases or other publicity matters, any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes or pictures implying endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all such publicity endorsement matters that

mention or display the other's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied.

- 14.2 Neither Party will offer any services using the trademarks, service marks, trade names, brand names, logos, insignia, symbols or decorative designs of the other Party or its affiliates without the other Party's written authorization.

**15.0 Network Maintenance and Management**

- 15.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the Government, etc.) to achieve this desired reliability, subject to the confidentiality provisions herein.

- 15.2 Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center. A facsimile (FAX) number must also be provided to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Additionally, both Parties agree that they will work cooperatively to ensure that all such events will attempt to be conducted in such a manner as to avoid disruption or loss of service to other end users.

**15.2.1 24 Hour Network Management Contact:**

**For ALLTEL:**

**Contact Number:** 330-650-7900

**Facsimile Number:** 330-650-7918

**For BSLD:**

**Contact Number:** 1-800-782-0004

**Facsimile Number:** 770-352-3295

**Email:** cresa@bellsouthcom

- 15.3 Neither Party will use any service provided under this Agreement in a manner that impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's subscribers. Either Party will provide the other Party notice of said impairment at the earliest practicable time.

**16.0 Law Enforcement and Civil Process**

**16.1 Intercept Devices**

Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with a customer of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer such request to the appropriate Party, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's own facilities, in which case that Party will comply with any valid requirement, to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if such compliance requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided.

**16.2 Subpoenas**

If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an end user the Party knows to be an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer the subpoena to the requesting entity with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company.

**16.3 Law Enforcement Emergencies**

If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency to implement at its switch a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls for an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will comply so long as it is a valid emergency request. Neither Party will be held liable for any claims or damages arising from compliance with such requests, and the Party serving the end user agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims.

- 16.4 The Parties will provide five (5) day a week, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, installation and information retrieval pertaining to lawful, manual traps and information retrieval on customer invoked CLASS services pertaining to non-emergency calls such as annoyance calls. The Parties will provide assistance twenty-four (24) hours per day for situations involving immediate threat of life or at the request of law enforcement officials. The Parties will provide a twenty-four (24) hour contact number to administer this process.

**17.0 Changes in Subscriber Carrier Selection**

- 17.1 Each Party will abide by applicable state or federal laws and regulations in obtaining end user authorization prior to changing an end user's Local Service Provider to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in Section 258 (b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Either Party shall make authorization available to the other Party upon reasonable requests and at no charge.
- 17.2 Only an end user can initiate a challenge to a change in its local exchange service provider. If an end user notifies either Party that the end user requests local exchange service, the Party receiving such request shall be free to immediately provide service to such end user.
- 17.3 When an end user changes or withdraws authorization, each Party will release customer specific facilities in accordance with the end user customer's direction or the end user's authorized agent.
- 17.4 Subject to applicable rules, orders, and decisions, ALLTEL will provide BSLD with access to Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) for ALLTEL end users upon BSLD providing ALLTEL a signed Letter of Agency (LOA) for ALLTEL's customer of record, based on BSLD's representation that subscriber has authorized BSLD to obtain such CPNI.
- 17.4.1 The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and applicable state regulations regarding the provisioning of CPNI between the Parties, and regarding the use of that information by the requesting Party.
- 17.4.2 The requesting Party will document end user permission obtained to receive CPNI, whether or not the end user has agreed to change Local Service Providers. For end users changing service from one Party to the other, specific end user LOAs may be requested by the Party receiving CPNI requests to investigate possible slamming incidents, and for other reasons agreed to by the Parties. The receiving Party may also request documentation of an LOA if CPNI is requested and a subsequent service order for the change of local service is not received.

17.4.3 CPNI requests will be processed in accordance with the following:

17.4.3.1 For customers with 1-25 lines: two (2) business days.

17.4.3.2 For customers with 26+ lines: three (3) business days.

17.4.4 If the Parties do not agree that BSLD requested CPNI for a specific end user, or that ALLTEL has erred in not accepting proof of an LOA, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with General Terms & Conditions, Section 9.0, Dispute Resolution.

17.5 ALLTEL will only accept an LOA for an ALLTEL customer of record. Such an LOA can be in the form of a blanket LOA certifying that required End User authorization will be secured in accordance with Section 17.1.

**18.0 Amendments or Waivers**

18.1 Execution of this Agreement by either Party does not confirm or imply that the executing Party agrees with any decision(s) issued pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the consequences of those decisions on specific language in this Agreement. Neither Party waives its rights to appeal or otherwise challenge any such decision(s) and each Party reserves all of its rights to pursue any and all legal and/or equitable remedies, including appeals of any such decision(s).

18.2 The Parties recognize that ALLTEL, at the time of execution of this Agreement, is a 2% Rural Telephone Company and is entitled to all rights afforded 2% Rural Telephone Companies under the Act including, but not limited to, exemptions, suspensions, and modifications under 47 USC § 251(f).

**19.0 Authority**

19.1 Each person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that they have the authority to bind the Party on whose behalf they executed this Agreement.

**20.0 Binding Effect**

20.1 This Agreement will be binding on and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.

**21.0 Consent**

21.1 Where consent, approval, or mutual agreement is required of a Party, it will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

**22.0 Expenses**

22.1 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.

**23.0 Headings**

- 23.1 The headings in this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and will not be considered in the interpretation of this Agreement.

**24.0 Relationship of Parties**

- 24.1 This Agreement will not establish, be interpreted as establishing, or be used by either Party to establish or to represent their relationship as any form of agency, partnership or joint venture. Neither Party will have any authority to bind the other Party, nor to act as an agent for the other Party unless written authority, separate from this Agreement, is provided. Nothing in the Agreement will be construed as providing for the sharing of profits or losses arising out of the efforts of either or both of the Parties. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party.

**25.0 Conflict of Interest**

- 25.1 The Parties represent that no employee or agent of either Party has been or will be employed, retained, paid a fee, or otherwise received or will receive any personal compensation or consideration from the other Party, or any of the other Party's employees or agents in connection with the arranging or negotiation of this Agreement or associated documents.

**26.0 Multiple Counterparts**

- 26.1 This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which will together constitute but one and the same document.

**27.0 Third Party Beneficiaries**

- 27.1 Except as may be specifically set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement does not provide and will not be construed to provide third parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege.

**28.0 Regulatory Approval**

- 28.1 Each Party agrees to cooperate with the other Party and with any regulatory agency to obtain regulatory approval. During the term of this Agreement, each Party agrees to continue to cooperate with the other Party and any regulatory agency so that the benefits of this Agreement may be achieved.



- 28.2 Upon execution of this Agreement, it shall be filed with the appropriate state regulatory agency pursuant to the requirements of Section 252 of the Act and the Parties shall share equally any filing fees therefore. If the state regulatory agency imposes any filing(s) or public interest notice(s) regarding the filing or approval of the Agreement, BSLD shall assume sole responsibility in making such filings or notices. All costs associated with the aforementioned filing(s) or notice(s) shall be borne by BSLD. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Agreement shall not be submitted for approval by the appropriate state regulatory agency unless and until such time as BSLD is duly certified as a local exchange carrier in such state, except as otherwise required by a Commission.

**29.0 Trademarks and Trade Names**

- 29.1 Each Party warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, the services provided under this Agreement do not or will not violate or infringe upon any patent, copyright, trademark, or trade secret rights of any other persons.
- 29.2 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement will grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever, absent written consent of the other Party.

**30.0 Regulatory Authority**

- 30.1 Each Party will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all Federal Communications Commission, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Each Party will reasonably cooperate with the other Party in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals necessary for fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement.

**31.0 Verification Reviews**

- 31.1 Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party may audit the other Party's relevant books, records and other documents pertaining to services provided under this Agreement once in each Contract Year solely for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the other Party's billing and invoicing. Such audit will take place at a time and place agreed on by the Parties no later than sixty (60) days after notice thereof.
- 31.2 The review will consist of an examination and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the services performed by either Party as related to settlement charges or payments made in connection with this Agreement as determined by either Party to be reasonably required. Each Party shall maintain reasonable records for a minimum of twelve (12) months and provide the other Party with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts receivable or payable under this Agreement.
- 31.3 Adjustments, credits, or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) days from the Requesting Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such audit and are agreed to by the Parties. Audit findings may be applied retroactively for no more than twelve (12) months from the date the audit began. Interest shall not exceed one and one half percent (1 ½ %) or the highest interest rate allowable by law for commercial transactions and shall be assessed and computed by compounding daily from the time of the overcharge. Interest charged will not exceed twelve (12) months from

the date the audit began to the day of payment or credit. Any disputes concerning audit results will be resolved pursuant to the Dispute Resolution procedures described in Section 9.0 of this Agreement.

- 31.4 Each Party will cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all appropriate employees and books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Party's bills.
- 31.5 Verification reviews will be limited in frequency to once per twelve (12) month period, with provision for staged reviews, as mutually agreed, so that all subject matters are not required to be reviewed at the same time. Verification reviews will be scheduled subject to the reasonable requirements and limitations of the audited Party and will be conducted in a manner that will not interfere with the audited Party's business operations.
- 31.6 The Party requesting a verification review shall fully bear its costs associated with conducting a review. The Party being reviewed will provide access to required information, as outlined in this Section, at no charge to the reviewing Party. Should the reviewing Party request information or assistance beyond that reasonably required to conduct such a review, the Party being reviewed may, at its option, decline to comply with such request or may bill actual costs incurred in complying subsequent to the concurrence of the reviewing Party.
- 31.7 For purposes of conducting an audit pursuant to this Agreement, the Parties may employ other persons or firms for this purpose (so long as said Parties are bound by this Agreement). The Parties will bear their own reasonable expenses associated with the audit.
- 31.8 Information obtained or received by either Party in conducting the audit described in Section 31.0 shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of Section 6.0 of this Agreement, whether or not marked as confidential.

#### **32.0 Complete Terms**

- 32.1 This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the Parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither Party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the Party to be bound thereby.

#### **33.0 Cooperation on Preventing End User Fraud**

- 33.1 The Parties agree to cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize, and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost-effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one Party as compared to the other Party.
- 33.2 In cases of suspected fraudulent activity by an end user, at a minimum, the cooperation referenced in the above paragraph will include providing to the other Party, upon request, information concerning end users who terminate services to that Party without paying all outstanding charges. The Party seeking such information is responsible for securing the end user's permission to obtain such information.

#### **34.0 Notice of Network Changes**

- 34.1 The Parties agree to provide each other with reasonable notice, consistent with applicable FCC rules, of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using the other Party's facilities or networks, as well as other changes that affect the interoperability of those respective facilities and networks. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit either Party's ability to upgrade or modify its network, including without limitation, the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise so long as such upgrades are not inconsistent with the Parties' obligations under this Agreement.

**35.0 Modification of Agreement**

- 35.1 If either Party changes its name or makes changes to its company structure or identity due to a merger, acquisition, transfer or any other reason, it is the responsibility of that Party to notify the other Party of said change and request that an amendment to this Agreement, if necessary, be executed to reflect said change.

**36.0 Responsibility of Each Party**

- 36.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party will be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including compliance with social security taxes, withholding taxes and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party will be solely responsible for proper handling, storage, transport and disposal at its own expense of all (i) substances or materials that it or its contractors or agents bring to, create or assume control over at Work Locations or, (ii) waste resulting therefrom or otherwise generated in connection with its or its contractors' or agents' activities at the Work Locations. Subject to the limitations on liability and except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party will be responsible for (i) its own acts and performance of all obligations imposed by applicable law in connection with its activities, legal status and property, real or personal and, (ii) the acts of its own affiliates, employees, agents and contractors during the performance of the Party's obligations hereunder.

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**38.0 Governmental Compliance**

- 38.1 Each Party will comply at its own expense with all applicable law that relates to i) its obligations under or activities in connection with this Agreement and ii) its activities undertaken at, in connection with or relating to Work Locations. The Parties agree to indemnify, defend, (at the other Party's request) and save harmless the other Party, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from i) its failure or the failure of its contractors or agents to so comply or ii) any activity, duty or status of it or its contractors or agents that triggers any legal obligation to investigate or remediate environmental contamination.

**39.0 Responsibility for Environmental Contamination**

39.1 BSLD will in no event be liable to ALLTEL for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard that BSLD did not introduce to the affected work location. ALLTEL will indemnify, defend (at BSLD's request) and hold harmless BSLD, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from (i) any Environmental Hazard that ALLTEL, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or (ii) the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard for which ALLTEL is responsible under applicable law.

39.2 ALLTEL will in no event be liable to BSLD for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard that ALLTEL did not introduce to the affected work location. BSLD will indemnify, defend (at ALLTEL's request) and hold harmless ALLTEL, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from i) any Environmental Hazard that BSLD, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or ii) the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard for which BSLD is responsible under applicable law.

#### **40.0 Subcontracting**

40.1 If a Party through a subcontractor performs any obligation under this Agreement, such Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors, and each Party will be solely responsible for payments due the Party's subcontractors. No subcontractor will be deemed a third party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement. Any subcontractor who gains access to Confidential Information covered by this Agreement will be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such Confidential Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect the same under the terms of this Agreement.

#### **41.0 Referenced Documents**

41.1 Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, ALLTEL handbooks and manuals, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, it will be deemed to be a reference to the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document that is in effect, and will include the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document incorporated by reference in such a technical reference, technical publication, or publication of industry standards. However, if such reference material is substantially altered in a more recent version to significantly change the obligations of either Party as of the Effective Date of this Agreement and the Parties are not in agreement concerning such modifications, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to determine how such changes will impact performance of the Parties under this Agreement, if at all. Until such time as the Parties agree, the provisions of the last accepted and unchallenged version will remain in force.

#### **42.0 Severability**

42.1 If any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability will not invalidate the entire Agreement, unless such construction would be unreasonable. The Agreement will be construed as if it did not contain the invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of each Party will

be construed and enforced accordingly; provided, however, that in the event such invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions are essential elements of this Agreement and substantially impair the rights or obligations of either Party, the Parties will promptly negotiate a replacement provision or provisions. If impasse is reached, the Parties will resolve said impasse under §9.0, Dispute Resolution.

**43.0 Survival of Obligations**

- 43.1 Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, Confidential Information, limitations on liability, and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive (or to be performed after) termination of this Agreement, will survive cancellation or termination thereof.

**44.0 Governing Law**

- 44.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with federal law, the Act, and the FCC's Rules and Regulations, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic laws of South Carolina, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in South Carolina.

**45.0 Other Obligations of BSLD**

- 45.1 To establish service and provide efficient and consolidated billing to BSLD, BSLD is required to provide a CLEC Profile, which includes its authorized and nationally recognized Operating Company Number ("OCN"), to establish BSLD's billing account. BSLD will be provided with a billing account number ("BAN") for each CLEC Profile submitted.
- 45.2 BSLD shall use ALLTEL's electronic operations support system access platform (ALLTEL Express) to submit orders and requests for maintenance and repair of services, and to engage in other pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair transactions. If ALLTEL has not deployed an electronic capability, BSLD shall use such other processes as ALLTEL has made available for performing such transaction (including, but not limited, to submission of orders by telephonic facsimile transmission and placing trouble reports by voice telephone transmission). If BSLD chooses to submit orders manually, when ALLTEL's electronic operations support system access platform (ALLTEL Express) is available, BSLD will pay a manual order charge as reflected in the applicable ALLTEL tariff.
- 45.3 BSLD represents and covenants that it will only use ALLTEL Express pursuant to this Agreement for services covered by this Agreement, for which this Agreement contains explicit terms, conditions and rates.

**46.0 Customer Inquiries**

- 46.1 Each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.
- 46.2 Each Party will ensure that all of their representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services or products: (i) provide the numbers described in Section 46.1; and (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its services or products.

**47.0    Disclaimer of Warranties**

47.1    EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

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**53.0    Definitions and Acronyms**

**53.1    Definitions**

For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in Attachment 20: Definitions and elsewhere in this Agreement to encompass meanings that may differ from, or be in addition to, the normal connotation of the defined word. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined or used in the singular will include the plural. The words "will" and "shall" are used interchangeably throughout this Agreement and the use of either connotes a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other will not mean a different degree of right or obligation for either Party. A defined word intended to convey its special meaning is capitalized when used.

**53.2    Acronyms**

Other terms that are capitalized and not defined in this Agreement will have the meaning in the Act. For convenience of reference only, Attachment 21: Acronyms provides a list of acronyms used throughout this Agreement.

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**58.0 Other Requirements and Attachments**

58.1 This Agreement incorporates a number of listed Attachments, which, together with their associated Appendices, Exhibits, and Addenda, constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties.

58.1.1 Each Party agrees that if at anytime a discrepancy arises between the General Terms and Conditions and one of the Attachments, the Attachments will control.

58.1.2 Appended to this Agreement and incorporated herein are the Attachments listed below. To the extent that any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Attachment differ from those contained in the main body of this Agreement, those definitions, terms or conditions will supersede those contained in the main body of this Agreement, but only in regard to the services or activities listed in that particular Attachment. In particular, if an Attachment contains a term length that differs from the term length in the main body of this Agreement, the term length of that Attachment will control the length of time that services or activities are to occur under the Attachment, but will not affect the term length of other attachments.

Attachment 2: Resale  
Attachment 4: Network Interconnection Architecture  
Attachment 9: Directories  
Attachment 12: Compensation  
Attachment 13: Numbering  
Attachment 14: Number Portability  
Attachment 18: Performance Measures  
Attachment 19: Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process  
Attachment 20: Definitions  
Attachment 21: Acronyms

THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A BINDING ARBITRATION PROVISION, WHICH MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE PARTIES.

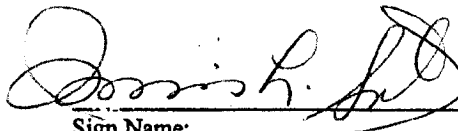
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Attachment to be executed as of this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2005.

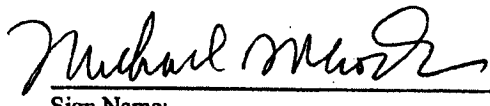
BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.

ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc.

Mario L. Soto  
Print Name

Michael D. Rhoda  
Print Name

 7/8/05  
Sign Name: Date

 7/21/05  
Sign Name: Date

President  
Position/Title  
BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.

Vice President -- Business Development  
Position/Title  
ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc.



**ATTACHMENT 1: INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

**ATTACHMENT 2: RESALE**

All services made available to BSLD by Alltel for resale by BSLD pursuant to the Agreement (Resale Services) will be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement and in this Attachment 2: Resale.

**1.0     General Provisions**

- 1.1     Resale Services will be made available to BSLD by Alltel.
- 1.2     The applicable rules, regulations and rates in the Alltel Local Exchange Tariff shall be applicable to Resale Services and to the extent of conflict herewith this Agreement shall control.
- 1.3     BSLD will be the customer of record for all services purchased from Alltel, pursuant to this Agreement. Except as specified herein, Alltel will take service orders from, bill and collect payment from BSLD for all services purchased pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.4     BSLD will be Alltel's single point of contact for all services purchased pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.5     BSLD may resell Alltel services only within the Alltel local service area as specified in the appropriate Alltel tariff.
- 1.6     Except where otherwise explicitly provided in the Alltel Local Exchange Tariff, BSLD shall not permit the sharing of a service by multiple end users or the aggregation of traffic from multiple end users onto a single service.
- 1.7     BSLD shall resell telecommunications services only to the same class of customers to which Alltel sells the services; e.g. residential service may not be resold to business customers.
- 1.8     BSLD shall not use a resold service to avoid the rates, terms and conditions of Alltel's Local Exchange Tariff, as applicable.
- 1.9     If Alltel at its sole discretion provides non-regulated services to BSLD for resale, said services shall be resold to BSLD according to terms and conditions established by Alltel.
- 1.10    BSLD shall not use resold local exchange telephone service to provide access services to Interexchange Carriers (IXCs), wireless carriers, competitive access providers (CAPs), or other telecommunication service providers.
- 1.11    Subject to the availability of facilities, Alltel shall provide Resale Services to BSLD pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.12    BSLD has no right to the telephone number or any other call number designation associated with services furnished by Alltel, and no right to the continuance of service through any particular central office or number. Alltel reserves the right to change numbers or the central office designation associated with such numbers, or both, whenever Alltel deems it necessary to do so in the conduct of its business.
- 1.13    Service is furnished to BSLD on the condition that it will not be used for any unlawful purpose.
- 1.14    Service will be discontinued if any law enforcement agency advises that the service is being used in violation of the law.

- 1.15 Alltel can refuse service when it has grounds to believe that service will be used in violation of the law.
- 1.16 Alltel accepts no responsibility for any unlawful act committed by BSLD or its end users as part of providing service to BSLD for purposes of resale or otherwise.
- 1.17 Alltel is authorized, but not required to cooperate with law enforcement agencies with respect to their investigation of any alleged unlawful activity of BSLD or its end users. Law enforcement agency subpoenas and court orders regarding the end users of BSLD will be directed to BSLD. Alltel shall be entitled to bill BSLD for any cost associated with complying with any requests by law enforcement agencies regarding BSLD or BSLD's end users.
- 1.18 White Page Directory Services shall be provided as set forth in Attachment 9 - White Page Directories.
- 1.19 Interexchange carried traffic (e.g. sent-paid, information services and alternate operator services messages) received by Alltel with respect to BSLD end-user accounts will be returned to the IXC as unbillable, and will not be passed on to BSLD for billing. An unbillable code returned with those messages to the carrier will indicate that the messages originated from a resold account and will not be billed by Alltel.
- 1.20 All necessary information with respect to an end-user, including telephone number, requested service dates, and products and services desired will be provided to Alltel by BSLD in accordance with the practices and procedures established by Alltel.
- 1.21 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, if Alltel notifies BSLD in writing of a violation of a provision of this Agreement, BSLD shall have thirty (30) days from notice to correct the violation and notify Alltel in writing that the violation has been corrected.
- 1.22 Alltel shall continue to have the right to serve and market directly to any end user within Alltel's service area, including but not limited to BSLD's end users. Alltel shall have the right to continue to directly market its own telecommunications products and services, and in doing so may establish independent relationships with BSLD's end users.
- 1.23 BSLD shall not interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from Alltel.
- 1.24 The circuits, facilities or equipment provided by any person or entity other than Alltel and use, operation, maintenance or installation thereof shall not:
  - 1.24.1 interfere with or impair service over any facilities of Alltel, its affiliates, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its service;
  - 1.24.2 cause damage to plant;
  - 1.24.3 impair the privacy of any communications; or
  - 1.24.4 create hazards to any employees or the public.
- 1.25 BSLD assumes the responsibility of notifying Alltel regarding any less than standard operations with respect to services provided by BSLD.
- 1.26 Facilities and/or equipment utilized by Alltel to provide service to BSLD shall remain the property of Alltel.

- 1.27 Alltel will provide customer record information to BSLD, only after BSLD has provided Alltel the appropriate Letter(s) of Authorization (LOA) from the relevant customer. Alltel may provide customer record information to BSLD via Alltel Express.
- 1.28 All costs incurred by Alltel for providing services to BSLD that are not covered in the Alltel tariffs shall be recovered from BSLD for utilizing such services.
- 1.29 The Parties agree that this Agreement shall not be proffered by either Party in another jurisdiction or proceeding as evidence of any concession or as a waiver of any position taken by the other Party in that jurisdiction or for any other purpose.
- 1.30 The rates applicable to BSLD for purchase of services from Alltel for resale shall be the retail rate for the telecommunications services as provided in Alltel's applicable Local Exchange Tariff.

## **2.0 General Obligations**

- 2.1 Alltel shall attempt to implement BSLD service orders within the same time intervals that Alltel uses to implement service orders for similar services for its own end users.
- 2.2 The appropriate Alltel trouble reporting centers shall accept BSLD trouble reports with respect to BSLD end users services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. BSLD will be assigned a customer contact center when initial service agreements are made. BSLD end users calling Alltel will be referred to BSLD at the number provided by BSLD.
- 2.3 If Alltel determines that an unauthorized change in local service by a local service provider has occurred, Alltel will reestablish service with the appropriate local service provider, and will assess against the local service provider an unauthorized change charge similar to that described in the Alltel F.C.C. Tariff No. 1. Appropriate nonrecurring charges, as set forth in the Local Exchange Tariff as applicable, will also be assessed to the local service provider.
- 2.4 To the extent allowable by law, BSLD shall be responsible for Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC) change charges associated with such local exchange line. These charges will be assessed regardless if the BSLD or the end user made the change. BSLD shall pay for PIC changes at the tariffed rate.
- 2.5 BSLD shall resell the services provided herein only in those service areas in which such Resale Services or any feature or capability thereof are offered at retail by Alltel as the incumbent local exchange carrier to its end users.
- 2.6 BSLD is solely responsible for the payment of charges for all service furnished under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, calls originated or accepted at BSLD location and its end users' service locations, with the exception of any retail services provided directly by Alltel to the end user which Alltel is responsible for billing.
- 2.7 Alltel shall not be responsible for the manner in which the use of Resale Services or the associated charges are billed to others by BSLD. All applicable rates and charges for such services will be billed to and shall be the responsibility of BSLD, with the exception of other retail services provided directly to the end user by Alltel as described in paragraph 2.6 above.
- 2.8 If BSLD does not wish to be responsible for toll, collect, third number billed, 900 and 976 calls, BSLD must order blocking services as outlined in the Alltel Local Exchange Tariff and pay any applicable charges.

- 2.9 BSLD shall be responsible for providing to its end users, and to Alltel a telephone number or numbers that BSLD end users can use to contact BSLD in the event of service or repair requests. In the event that BSLD end users contact Alltel with regard to such requests, Alltel shall provide the end user BSLD's contact number and inform the end user to contact BSLD.

### **3.0 Establishment of Service**

- 3.1 Upon receiving the applicable certification from the appropriate state regulatory agency, BSLD will provide Alltel with the necessary documentation to enable Alltel to establish a master account for BSLD. Such documentation shall include, but is not limited to, the Application for Master Account, proof of authority to provide telecommunications services, an Operating Company Number ("OCN") assigned by the National Exchange Carriers Association ("NECA"), and a tax exemption certificate, if applicable. When necessary deposit requirements are met, Alltel will begin taking orders from BSLD for Resale Services.
- 3.2 BSLD will establish a Master Account and Billing Account Number ("BAN") for resale services before any orders will be accepted by Alltel.
- 3.3 Service orders will be submitted in the format designated in Alltel handbooks and manuals.
- 3.4 When Alltel receives notification from BSLD that a current Alltel customer will be subscribing to BSLD's services, standard service order intervals for the appropriate class of service will apply.
- 3.5 Except as required by applicable laws or rules, Alltel will not require end user confirmation prior to establishing service for BSLD's end user customers. BSLD must, however, be able to demonstrate end user authorization upon request.
- 3.6 BSLD will be the single point of contact with Alltel for all subsequent ordering activity resulting in additions or changes to Resale Services, except that Alltel will accept a request directly from the end user for conversion of the end user's service from BSLD to Alltel, or will accept a request from another local service provider for conversion of the end user's service from BSLD to the other local service provider.
- 3.7 Alltel will provide BSLD at their request per customer, blocking of calls (e.g., toll, 900, international calls, and third party or collect calls) by line or trunk on an individual switching element basis, to the extent that Alltel provides such blocking capabilities to its customers and to the extent required by law.
- 3.8 When ordering Resale Services via a service order, BSLD may where available, order from Alltel separate InterLATA and IntraLATA service providers (i.e., two PICs) on a line or trunk basis where IntraLATA presubscription has been introduced. Alltel will accept PIC change orders for IntraLATA toll and long distance services through the Alltel service provisioning process.
- 3.9 Alltel will provide order format specifications to BSLD with respect to all services, features, and functions available and with respect to ancillary data required by Alltel to provision these services through Alltel manuals and handbooks.

### **4.0 Maintenance of Services**

- 4.1 Alltel's facilities and equipment provided by Alltel shall be maintained by Alltel.

- 4.2 Alltel will attempt to provide maintenance for all Resale Services ordered under this Agreement at levels equal to the maintenance provided by Alltel in serving its end user customers. Alltel technicians will attempt to provide repair service on Resale Services that is at least equal in quality to that provided to Alltel customers; trouble calls from BSLD will receive response time and priorities that are at least equal to that of Alltel customers.
- 4.3 BSLD or its end users may not rearrange, move, disconnect, remove or attempt to repair any facilities owned by Alltel, other than by connection or disconnection to any interface means used, without the written consent of Alltel.
- 4.4 BSLD shall promptly notify Alltel of any situations that arise that may result in a service problem.
- 4.5 BSLD will be Alltel's single point of contact for all repair calls on behalf of BSLD's end users with respect to Resale Services. All misdirected repair calls to Alltel from BSLD customers will be given a recording (or live statement) directing them to call the number designated by BSLD. BSLD on a reciprocal basis will refer all misdirected repair calls that BSLD receives for Alltel customers to Alltel.
- 4.6 BSLD will contact the appropriate Alltel repair center in accordance with procedures established by Alltel. BSLD will refer repair calls to Alltel via Alltel Express.
- 4.7 For all repair requests, BSLD shall adhere to Alltel's prescreening guidelines prior to referring the trouble to Alltel.
- 4.8 For purposes of this Section, Resale Services is considered restored or a trouble resolved when the quality of Resale Services is equal to that provided before the outage or the trouble occurred.
- 4.9 Alltel will bill BSLD for handling troubles that are found not to be in Alltel's network pursuant to its standard time and material charges. The standard time and material charges will be no more than what Alltel charges to its retail customers for the same services.
- 4.10 Alltel will provide BSLD with written escalation procedures for maintenance resolution to be followed if, in BSLD's judgment, any individual trouble ticket or tickets are not resolved in a timely manner. The escalation procedures to be provided thereunder shall include names and telephone numbers of Alltel management personnel who are responsible for maintenance issues.
- 4.11 Alltel Maintenance of Service Charges, when applicable, will be billed by Alltel to BSLD, and not to BSLD's end-user customers.
- 4.12 Dispatching of Alltel technicians to BSLD Customer premises shall be accomplished by Alltel pursuant to a request received from BSLD.
- 4.13 When an Alltel employee visits the premises of a BSLD local customer, the Alltel employee will inform the customer or occupant, directly or indirectly, that he or she is there acting on behalf of "their local service provider". Materials left at the customer premises  
  
(e.g., a door hanger notifying the customer of the service visit) must also inform the customer that Alltel was on their premises acting on behalf of "their local service provider".
- 4.14 If trouble cannot be cleared without access to BSLD local customer's premises and the customer is not at home, the Alltel technician will leave at the customer's premises a non-branded "no access" card requesting the customer to call "their local service provider" for rescheduling of repair.
- 4.15 Alltel reserves the right, but is not required, to contact BSLD's customers for any lawful purpose.

- 4.16 Alltel will perform testing (including trouble shooting to isolate any problems) of Resale Services purchased by BSLD in order to identify any new circuit failure performance problems.

## **5.0 Discontinuance of Service**

### **5.1 End User Disconnect Procedures**

- 5.1.1 At the request of BSLD, Alltel will disconnect a BSLD end user customer.
- 5.1.2 All requests by BSLD for denial or disconnection of an end user for nonpayment must be provided to Alltel in writing in the manner and format prescribed by Alltel.
- 5.1.3 BSLD will be solely responsible for notifying the end user of the proposed disconnection of service.
- 5.1.4 Upon restoration of the end user's service, charges will apply and will be the responsibility of BSLD.
- 5.1.5 Alltel will continue to process calls made to Alltel for annoyance calls and will advise BSLD when it is determined that annoyance calls are originated from one of their end user's locations. Alltel shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by BSLD against any claim, loss or damage arising from providing this information to BSLD. It is the responsibility of BSLD to take the corrective action necessary with its customers who make annoying calls. Failure to do so will result in Alltel's disconnecting the end user's service.

## **6.0 Dispute Resolution**

### **6.1 Notice of Disputes**

Notice of a valid contractual dispute must be made through the Alltel Express System's billing dispute form, specifically documenting the nature of the dispute, and must include a detailed description of the underlying dispute (the "Billing Dispute"). Billing Disputes must be submitted via Alltel Express, on the billing dispute form or the dispute will not be accepted as a valid Billing Dispute and therefore denied by the billing Party. The billing dispute form must be completed with all fields populated by the disputing Party or the form will be denied by the billing Party.

#### **6.1.1 Billing Disputes**

The billing dispute form must be complete, with all fields populated with the required information for the billable element in dispute. If the billing dispute form is not complete with all information, the dispute will be denied by the billing Party. After receipt of a completed billing dispute form, the billing Party will review to determine the accuracy of the Billing Dispute. If the billing Party determines the dispute is valid, the billing Party will credit the disputing Party's bill within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the Billing Dispute. If the billing Party determines the Billing Dispute is not valid, the disputing Party may escalate the dispute as outlined in Section 6.1.1.1.

- 6.1.1.1 Resolution of the dispute is expected to occur at the first level of management, resulting in a recommendation for settlement of the dispute and closure of a

specific billing period. If the issues are not resolved within the allotted time frame, the following resolution procedure will be implemented:

- 6.1.1.1.1 If the dispute is not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the billing dispute form, the dispute will be escalated to the second level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution. If the dispute is not resolved within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the Billing Dispute, the dispute will be escalated to the third level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.
- 6.1.1.1.2 If the dispute is not resolved within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of the billing dispute form, the dispute will be escalated to the fourth level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.
- 6.1.1.1.3 Each Party will provide to the other Party an escalation list for resolving Billing Disputes. The escalation list will contain the name, title, phone number, fax number and email address for each escalation point identified in this section 6.1.1.1.
- 6.1.1.1.4 If the dispute is not resolved within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days of receipt of the billing dispute form or either Party is not operating in good faith to resolve the dispute, the Formal Dispute Resolution process, outlined in Section 6.4, may be invoked.
- 6.1.1.2 If the disputing Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the disputing Party, the billing Party shall credit the bill of the disputing Party for the amount of the disputed charges by the next billing cycle after the resolution of the dispute.
- 6.1.1.3 Claims by the disputing Party for damages of any kind will not be considered a Bona Fide Dispute for purposes of this subsection 6.1.1.
- 6.1.1.4 Any credits due to the disputing Party resulting from the Billing Dispute process will be applied to the disputing Party's account by the billing Party immediately upon resolution of the dispute.
- 6.1.1.5 Neither Party shall bill the other Party for charges incurred more than twelve (12) months after the service is provided to the non-billing Party.

**6.1.2 All Other Disputes**

All other disputes (*i.e.*, contractual disputes) shall be valid only if reasonable within the scope of this Agreement, and the applicable statute of limitations shall govern such disputes

**6.2 Alternative to Litigation**

- 6.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order, an injunction, or similar relief from the State Commission related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this Dispute Resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following Dispute Resolution procedure with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.



**6.3 Informal Resolution of Disputes**

In the case of any dispute and upon receipt of the billing dispute form each Party will appoint a duly authorized representative knowledgeable in telecommunications matters, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may, but are not obligated to, utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit. Unless otherwise provided herein, or upon the Parties' agreement, either Party may invoke formal dispute resolution procedures including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, not earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the billing dispute form, provided the Party invoking the formal dispute resolution process has in good faith negotiated, or attempted to negotiate, with the other Party.

**6.4 Formal Dispute Resolution**

- 6.4.1 The Parties agree that all unresolved disputes arising under this Agreement, including without limitation, whether the dispute in question is subject to arbitration, may be submitted to State Commission for resolution in accordance with its dispute resolution process and the outcome of such process will be binding on the Parties, subject to any right to appeal a decision reached by the State Commission under applicable law.
- 6.4.2 If the State Commission does not have or declines to accept jurisdiction over any dispute arising under this Agreement, the dispute may be submitted to binding arbitration by a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. A Party may demand such arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in those rules. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set out in this section or upon approval or order of the arbitrator. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond, to a maximum of any combination of thirty-five (35) (none of which may have subparts) of the following: interrogatories; demands to produce documents; requests for admission. Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within ninety (90) calendar days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitration shall be held in South Carolina, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties or required by the FCC. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties shall submit written briefs five days before the hearing. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) calendar days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator has no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.
- 6.4.3 Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures unless the State Commission or other presiding arbitrator, if any, rules otherwise. A Party seeking discovery shall reimburse the responding Party for the costs of production of documents (including search time and reproduction costs).

**6.5 Conflicts**

- 6.5.1 The Parties agree that the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement are not intended to conflict with applicable requirements of the Act or the state commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement and do not preclude a Party from seeking relief under applicable rules or procedures of the State Commission.

**6.6 Arbitration**

- 6.6.1 Any disputes involving amounts which represent Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) or less annually, not resolved pursuant to the informal dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section 6.3 within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of the Dispute Notice shall be submitted to binding arbitration by a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. A Party may demand such arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in those rules. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set out in this Section. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond, to a maximum of any combination of thirty-five (35) (none of which may have subparts) of the following: interrogatories; demands to produce documents; requests for admission.
- 6.6.2 Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within ninety (90) calendar days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitration shall be held in the state capitol of the state where the Interconnection Services are provided. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties shall submit written briefs five days before the hearing. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) calendar days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator shall have no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this Section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

**6.7 Costs**

Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures. A Party seeking discovery shall reimburse the responding Party for the costs of production of documents (including search time and reproduction costs).

**7.0 Termination of Service to BSLD**

- 7.1 Alltel reserves the right to suspend or terminate service for nonpayment or in the event of prohibited, unlawful or improper use of facilities or service, abuse of facilities, or any other violation or noncompliance by BSLD of the rules and regulations of the Alltel Local Exchange Tariff.
- 7.2 Disputes hereunder shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in Section 6.0 Dispute Resolution. Failure of BSLD to pay charges owed to Alltel shall be grounds for termination under this Agreement
- 7.3 Failure of BSLD to pay all charges, including disputed amounts, shall be grounds for suspension or termination of this Agreement. If BSLD fails to pay when due, all charges billed to BSLD under this Agreement, and any portion of such charges remain unpaid more than thirty (30) days after the due date of such charges, Alltel will notify BSLD in writing that in order to avoid having

service disconnected and or suspension of order acceptance, BSLD must remit all charges to Alltel within fifteen (15) days after receipt of said notice (the "Embargo Notice").

- 7.4 If any BSLD charges remain unpaid at the conclusion of the time period as set forth in Section 7.3 above (45 days from the due date of such unpaid charges), Alltel will notify BSLD, (the "Disconnect Notice") and the appropriate commission(s) in writing, pursuant to state public service commission's rules and regulations, that BSLD's service will be disconnected and BSLD's end users may be switched to Alltel local service and Alltel will suspend order acceptance. Applicable service establishment charges for switching end users from BSLD to Alltel will be assessed to BSLD. In the case of such discontinuance, all billed charges, as well as applicable termination charges, shall become due. If Alltel does not discontinue the provision of the services involved on the date specified in the fifteen (15) day Embargo Notice, and BSLD's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude Alltel's right to discontinue the provisions of the services to BSLD without further notice.
- 7.5 Within five (5) calendar days of the transfer to Alltel's service, (45 days past BSLD's due date), Alltel will notify all affected end users that because of a BSLD's failure to pay all charges, their service is now being provided by Alltel.
- 7.6 After disconnect procedures have begun, Alltel will not accept service orders from BSLD until all charges are paid in full, in immediately available funds. Alltel will have the right to require a deposit equal to three (3) months charges (based on the highest previous month of service from Alltel) prior to resuming service to BSLD after disconnect for nonpayment.
- 7.7 Beyond the specifically set out limitations in this Section, nothing herein will be interpreted to obligate Alltel to continue to provide service to any such end users or to limit any and all disconnection rights Alltel may have with regard to such end users.

## **8.0 Billing and Payments**

- 8.1 Pursuant to this Agreement, Alltel shall bill BSLD those charges, which BSLD incurs as a result of BSLD purchasing Resale Services from Alltel.
- 8.2 Alltel shall provide BSLD a monthly bill including all charges incurred by and credits and/or adjustments due to BSLD for the Resale Services ordered, established, utilized, discontinued or performed pursuant to this Agreement. Each bill provided by Alltel to BSLD will include:
  - 8.2.1 all non-usage sensitive charges incurred for the period beginning with the day after the current bill date and extending to, and including, the next bill date;
  - 8.2.2 any known unbilled non-usage sensitive charges for prior periods;
  - 8.2.3 unbilled usage sensitive charges for the period beginning with the last bill date and extending up to, but not including, the current bill date; and
  - 8.2.4 any known unbilled usage sensitive charges for prior periods. Alltel will also bill all charges, including but not limited to 911 and E911 charges, telecommunications relay charges, and franchise fees, to BSLD.
- 8.3 Any switched access charges associated with interexchange carrier access to the resold local exchange lines will be billed by, and due Alltel from the Interexchange Carrier.

- 8.4 All end user common line (EUCL) charges, subscriber line charges (SLC), or other similar charges will continue to apply for each local exchange line resold under this Agreement. All applicable federal and state rules, tariffs and regulations associated with such charges shall be applicable, as may be amended from time to time.
- 8.5 Each Party will provide the other Party at no charge a contact person for the handling of any Resale Billing questions or problems.
- 8.6 Alltel will render bills each month on established bill days for each of BSLD's accounts.
- 8.7 If BSLD requests an additional copy(ies) of a bill, BSLD will pay Alltel a reasonable fee per additional bill copy, unless such copy(ies) was requested due to errors, omissions, or corrections, or the failure of the original transmission to comply with the specifications set forth in this Agreement.
- 8.8 Payment of all charges will be the responsibility of BSLD. BSLD shall make payment to Alltel for all Resale Services billed. Alltel is not responsible for payments not received by BSLD from BSLD's customer. Alltel will not become involved in Billing Disputes that arise between BSLD and its customer. Payments made to Alltel, as payment on account, will be credited to an accounts receivable master account and not to an end user's account.
- 8.9 Payment of all charges will be due within thirty (30) days of the invoice date and payable in immediately available funds. Payment is considered to have been made when received by Alltel.

**9.0 Customer Usage Data**

- 9.1 Usage Data with respect to end users will be provided by Alltel to BSLD when the end user has been transferred to BSLD, and BSLD purchases Resale Services from Alltel.
- 9.2 Alltel will provide usage data for BSLD customers using Alltel-provided Resale Services. Usage Data includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of information:
  - 9.2.1 All record types that are currently processed for Alltel customers.
  - 9.2.2 Use of CLASS/ Custom Features;
  - 9.2.3 Station level detail for Alltel - provided CENTREX families of services; and
  - 9.2.4 Complete call detail and complete timing information for Resale Services;
- 9.3 Alltel will provide Usage Data for completed calls only for service offerings that Alltel records for itself (e.g., Local Measured Services) and recordings performed on the behalf of Alltel for operator services and directory assistance.
- 9.4 Alltel will provide Usage Data to BSLD only for BSLD Customers. Alltel will not submit other carriers' local usage data as part of the BSLD Usage Data.
- 9.5 Alltel will provide Usage Data in EMI format.
- 9.6 Alltel will include the Working Telephone Number (WTN) of the call originator on each EMI call record.

- 9.7 End user customer usage records and station level detail records will be in packs in accordance with EMI guidelines.
- 9.8 Alltel will transmit formatted Usage Data to BSLD via CONNECT: Direct or as otherwise agreed to by the Parties. BSLD is responsible for the connection.
- 9.9 BSLD and Alltel will test and certify the CONNECT: Direct interface to ensure the accurate transmission of Usage Data. BSLD will pay to Alltel a per message charge for Alltel's transmission of usage data to BSLD.
- 9.10 Alltel will provide Usage Data to BSLD daily (Monday through Friday) on a time schedule to be determined by the Parties. By mutual agreement of both Parties, this schedule can be amended with thirty (30) days written notice.
- 9.11 Alltel will establish a single point of contact to respond to BSLD call usage, data error, and record transmission inquiries.
- 9.12 Alltel will bill and BSLD will pay the applicable charges for Usage Data set forth in this Agreement. Billing and payment will be in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

**ATTACHMENT 3: INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

## **ATTACHMENT 4: NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE**

### **1.0 Scope**

- 1.1 This Attachment describes the arrangements that may be utilized by the Parties for interconnection of their respective networks for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service and Exchange Access Service pursuant to Section 251 of the Act. The Parties will utilize the interconnection method(s) specified below, unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties, in each ALLTEL exchange area or each ALLTEL tandem serving area (if applicable) where the parties interconnect their networks. Network Interconnection will be provided by the Parties at any technically feasible point within ALLTEL's interconnected network within a LATA. It is BSLD's responsibility to establish a single point of interconnection within ALLTEL's interconnected network within each LATA. In each ALLTEL Exchange Area where the Parties interconnect their networks, the Parties will utilize the interconnection method as specified below unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties. Traffic originated by a telecommunications carrier, not subject to this agreement, delivered to one of the Parties, regardless of whether such traffic is delivered to the Party's end user customer, is not considered to be originating on that Party's network and may not be routed through direct interconnection.
- 1.2 Each Party is responsible for the appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities on its side of each IP. Each IP must be located within ALLTEL's serving territory in the LATA in which traffic is originating. An IP determines the point up to which the originating Party shall be responsible for providing at its own expense, the call transport with respect to its local traffic and intraLATA toll traffic.
- 1.3 An Interconnection Point ("IP"), as defined in Section 2.0 of this Attachment will be designated for each interconnection arrangement established pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.4 This Attachment is based on the network configuration and capabilities of the Parties as they exist on the date of this Agreement. If those factors change (i.e., ALLTEL deploys a new tandem office or becomes an E-911 provider), the Parties will negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement in order to accommodate the changes and to provide the services made possible by such additional capabilities to BSLD.

### **2.0 Interconnection**

- 2.1 Direct interconnection provides for network interconnection between the Parties through,, including but not limited to, one or more of the following methods: 1) lease arrangements, and 2) jointly provisioned facilities arrangements. The Parties shall designate an IP(s) within each ALLTEL exchange area or ALLTEL tandem serving area (if applicable) to which each Party must bring its originating traffic for termination. Each Party will bear the full cost of bringing its originating traffic to the IP for termination.
  - 2.1.1 In order to gain connectivity, the IP is required at one of the following locations:
    - a) IP at the ALLTEL Access Tandem Office where available, and;
    - b) IP at the ALLTEL End Office;
    - c) IP at the ALLTEL Access Tandem, where available, or End Office for a ALLTEL remote central office.
  - 2.1.2 Lease arrangements will be governed by the applicable ALLTEL interstate, intrastate or local, special access or private line tariffs under which BSLD orders service.

- 2.1.3 Each Party will be responsible for the engineering and construction of its own network facilities on its side of the IP, however, should ALLTEL be required to modify its network to accommodate the interconnection request made by BSLD, BSLD agrees to pay ALLTEL reasonable charges for such modifications. If BSLD uses a third party network Carrier to reach the IP, BSLD will bear all third party Carrier charges for facilities and traffic.
- 2.2 Jointly provisioned service arrangements provide for direct interconnection of the Parties networks at a point other than the ALLTEL and BSLD end office or wire center and involve each Party's partial provisioning of network facilities to interconnect the Parties' networks for the exchange of traffic. Should the Parties interconnect via jointly provisioned facilities, the Parties will mutually agree to an IP provided, however, that the IP will be within ALLTEL's exchange boundary where direct interconnection is requested and where adequate facilities exist. Each Party is individually responsible for its costs incurred in establishing this arrangement. Should BSLD's level of traffic exceed a single DS1 of traffic for three consecutive months (512 Centime Call Seconds at the peak busy hour) to an ALLTEL End Office or ALLTEL Access Tandem or if BSLD establishes a NPA/NXX in an ALLTEL Exchange Area, BSLD will establish direct connection with ALLTEL pursuant to Section 2.1 and 2.3.
- 2.3 The Parties shall utilize direct end office trunk groups under any one of the following conditions:
- 2.3.1 Tandem Exhaust - If a tandem through which the Parties are interconnected is unable to, or is forecasted to be unable to support additional traffic loads for any period of time, the Parties will mutually agree on an end office trunking plan that will alleviate the tandem capacity shortage and ensure completion of traffic between BSLD and ALLTEL.
- 2.3.2 Traffic Volume - To the extent either Party has the capability to measure the amount of traffic between BSLD's switch and a ALLTEL end office and where such traffic exceeds or is forecasted to exceed a single DS1 of traffic per month, then the Parties shall install and retain direct end office trunking sufficient to handle such traffic volumes. Either Party will install additional capacity between such points when overflow traffic exceeds or is forecasted to exceed a single DS1 of traffic per month. In the case of one-way trunking, additional trunking shall only be required by the Party whose trunking has achieved the preceding usage threshold.
- 2.3.3 Mutual Agreement - The Parties may install direct end office trunking upon mutual agreement in the absence of conditions (2.2.1) or (2.2.2) above.
- 2.4 Except as set forth in Section 2.6 below, both Parties agree only to deliver traffic to the other pursuant to and consistent with the terms of this Agreement. Neither Party shall utilize a third party for the delivery of traffic to the other pursuant to this Agreement without the consent of all Parties and without the establishment of mutually agreeable terms and conditions among all Parties. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to utilize any intermediary or transit traffic functions of the other Party.
- 2.5 Neither Party shall deliver: (i) traffic destined to terminate at the other Party's end office via another LEC's end office, or (ii) traffic destined to terminate at an end office subtending the other Party's access tandem via another LEC's access tandem
- 2.6 Notwithstanding Section 2.4 above, indirect interconnection provides for network interconnection between the Parties through a third party tandem provider performing a transit function. If the traffic volumes between BSLD and an ALLTEL End Office delivered by the third party tandem provider meet the Centum Call Seconds (CCS) equivalent of one DS-1 (i.e. 500 busy hour CCS), for three (3) consecutive months, BSLD shall within forty-five (45) days establish direct End Office trunk groups.



**3.0     Signaling Requirements**

- 3.1     Signaling protocol. The Parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Bellcore Standards including ISDN user part ("ISUP") for trunk signaling and Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") for CCS-based features in the interconnection of their networks. All Network Interoperability Interface Forum (NIIF) adopted standards shall be adhered to.
- 3.2     Where available, CCS signaling shall be used by the Parties to set up calls between the Parties' Telephone Exchange Service networks. If CCS signaling is unavailable, the Parties shall use MF (Multi-Frequency) signaling.
- 3.3     The following list of publications describe the practices, procedures and specifications generally utilized by the industry for signaling purposes and are listed herein to assist the Parties in meeting their respective interconnection responsibilities related to signaling:

GR-000246-CORE, Bell Communications Research Specifications of  
Signaling System 7 ("SS7")

GR-000317-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Call Control  
Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000394-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Interexchange  
Carrier Interconnection Using the Integrated Services Digital Network  
User Part

GR-000606-CORE, LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements-  
Common Channel Signaling-§6.5

GR-000905-CORE, Common Channel Signaling Network Interface  
Specification Supporting Network Interconnection Message Transfer  
Part ("MTP") and Integrated Digital Services Network User Part  
("ISDNUP")

- 3.4     The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate interoperability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions, to the extent each Party offers such features and functions to its end users. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including, without limitation, Calling Party Number (CPN), Originating Line Information ("OLI"), calling party category and charge number.
- 3.5     Where available each Party shall cooperate to ensure that all of its trunk groups are configured utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 kbps clear channel transmission to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks.
- 3.6     The Parties shall jointly develop a grooming plan (the "Joint Grooming Plan") which shall define and detail, inter alia,
  - 3.6.1     disaster recovery provisions and escalations;
  - 3.6.2     direct/high usage trunk engineering guidelines; and

3.6.3 such other matters as the Parties may agree.

- 3.7 If a Party makes a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the interoperability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide thirty (30) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

#### **4.0 Interconnection and Trunking Requirements**

##### **4.1 Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic**

- 4.1.1 The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll calls originating on each other's networks as follows:

4.1.1.1 Where technically feasible, the Parties shall make available to each other two-way trunks for the reciprocal exchange of combined Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll traffic. In such case, each Party will provide to each other its Percentage of Local Use (PLU) for billing purposes. If either Party questions the accuracy of the other's PLU, that issue may be included in a verification review as provided in §32.0 of the General Terms and Conditions. If at any time during the term of this Agreement, the average monthly number of minutes of use (combined Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll traffic) terminated by either Party on the network of the other exceeds the generally accepted engineering practices as mutually agreed to by the Parties, the Party on whose network those minutes have been terminated may elect to require jurisdictionally separate trunks for Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll traffic.

4.1.1.2 Where technically feasible, each Party's operator bureau shall accept BLV and BLVI inquiries from the operator bureau of the other Party in order to allow transparent provisioning of BLV/BLVI traffic between the Parties' networks. Each Party shall route BLV/BLVI inquiries between the Parties respective operator bureaus.

##### **4.2 Trunking**

- 4.2.1 Trunking will be established at the DS-1 level or DS-0 level, and facilities will be established at a DS1 level, or higher, as agreed upon by the Parties. All trunking will be jointly engineered to an objective P.01 grade of service. The Parties may utilize additional end office trunking depending upon traffic volume.
- 4.2.2 Where ALLTEL is a 911 provider, separate trunks connecting BSLD's switch to ALLTELs E911 routers will be established by BSLD. If BSLD purchases such services from ALLTEL, they will be provided at full applicable tariff rates. For all 911/E911 traffic originating from BSLD, it is the responsibility of BSLD and the appropriate state or local public safety answering agency to negotiate the manner in which 911/E911 traffic from BSLD will be processed.
- 4.2.3 BSLD will not route traffic to ALLTELs local end office switches to act as a tandem on BSLD's behalf nor will ALLTEL route traffic to BSLD's local end office switches to act as a tandem on ALLTELs behalf.

- 4.2.4 This Agreement is applicable only to ALLTELS serving areas. ALLTEL will not be responsible for interconnections or contracts relating to any of BSLD's interconnection with any other Carrier.

## **5.0 Network Management**

### **5.1 Protective Protocols**

Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each others network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. The Parties will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

### **5.2 Expansive Protocols**

Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

### **5.3 Mass Calling**

The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available, regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes, to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public switched network.

## **6.0 Forecasting/Serviceing Responsibilities**

- 6.1 Both Parties agree to provide an initial forecast for establishing the initial interconnection facilities. Subsequent forecasts will be provided on a semi-annual basis.
- 6.2 ALLTEL shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to BSLD. BSLD shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to ALLTEL end users. Standard trunk traffic engineering methods will be used as described in Telecordia, formerly known as Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Bellcore), document SR-TAP-000191, Trunk Traffic Engineering Concepts and Applications.
- 6.3 The Parties shall both be responsible for efficient planning and utilization of the network and employ all reasonable means of forecasting, monitoring and correcting for inefficient use of the network. The Parties will conduct facility planning meetings to determine initial and subsequent utilization standards subsequent to execution of this Agreement but prior to direct interconnection in accordance with Section 3.5 of this Attachment preceding.
- 6.4 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

## **7.0 Trunk Serviceing**

- 7.1 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an Access Service Request ("ASR") or another industry standard method subsequently adopted by the Parties to replace the ASR for local trunk ordering.
- 7.2 The Parties shall jointly manage the capacity of local Interconnection Trunk Groups. Either Party may send the other Party an ASR to initiate changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups that the ordering Party desires based on the ordering Party's capacity assessment.
- 7.3 Orders that comprise a major project (i.e., new switch deployment) shall be submitted in a timely fashion, and their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated. Requests for major projects shall not be unnecessarily delayed or withheld by either Party.
- 7.4 Each Party shall be responsible for engineering its networks on its side of the IP.
- 7.5 Each Party will provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.
- 7.6 The Parties will coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.
- 7.7 Each Party will perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.
- 7.8 The Parties will advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure, which may affect the interconnection trunks.
- 7.9 Each Party will provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.
- 7.10 The Parties will cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the local interconnection trunks to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.
- 7.11 A blocking standard of one-half of one percent (.005) during the average busy hour for final trunk groups between an BSLD end office and ALLTEL access tandem carrying meet point traffic shall be maintained. All other final trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (.01). ALLTEL will engineer all interconnection trunks between the Parties to a 6 db of digital pad configuration.

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## **ATTACHMENT 9: DIRECTORIES**

This Attachment 9: Directories sets forth terms and conditions with respect to the printing and distribution of White Pages directory in addition to the General Terms and Conditions.

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 ALLTEL obtains the publication of White Pages and Yellow Pages directories (ALLTEL Directories) for geographic areas in which BSLD may also provide local exchange telephone service, and BSLD wishes to include listing information for its customers in the appropriate ALLTEL Directories.
- 1.2 ALLTEL will include BSLD's customer listings in the appropriate ALLTEL White Pages directory in accordance with Section 2.0 Resale and Section 3.0 Other, as specified in this Attachment. The Parties agree that Section 2.0 Resale shall be applicable to customers which BSLD serves through a Resale Agreement, and Section 3.0 Other relates to all other customers served by BSLD.
- 1.3 Any references in this Attachment to ALLTEL procedures, practices, requirements, or words of similar meaning, shall also be construed to include those of ALLTEL's contractors that produce directories on its behalf.

### **2.0 Service Provided - Resale**

- 2.1 ALLTEL will include in appropriate White Pages directories the primary alphabetical listings of all BSLD customers (other than non-published or non-list Customers) located within the local directory area.
- 2.2 BSLD will furnish to ALLTEL subscriber listing information pertaining to BSLD customers located within the ALLTEL local directory area, along with such additional information as ALLTEL may require to prepare and print the alphabetical listings of said directory.
- 2.3 ALLTEL will include the listing information for BSLD's customer for Resale Services in ALLTEL's White Pages directory database in the same manner as it includes listing information for ALLTEL's end user customers.
- 2.4 ALLTEL will provide BSLD with format requirements and procedures for submitting directory listings and directory updates.
- 2.5 BSLD may purchase Enhanced White Pages listings for residential customers on a per listing basis, and will pay ALLTEL amounts attributable to such Enhanced Listings used by its customers.
- 2.6 BSLD's subscriber listings will be inter-filed (interspersed) with ALLTEL's and other local service provider's subscriber listings in the White Pages directory with no discernible differentiation in the listings to indicate to the reader that the listings are served by another local service provider.
- 2.7 ALLTEL will deliver White Pages directories to BSLD customers. The timing of such delivery and the determination of which White Pages directories will be delivered (by customer address, NPA/NXX or other criteria), and the number of White Pages directories to be provided per customer, will be on the same terms that ALLTEL delivers White Pages directories to its own end users.

- 2.8 ALLTEL will distribute any subsequent directories in accordance with the same practices and procedures used by ALLTEL.
- 2.9 At its option, BSLD may purchase information pages (Customer Guide Pages) in the informational section of the ALLTEL White Pages directory covering the geographic area(s) it is serving. These pages will be in alphabetical order with other local service providers and will be no different in style, size, color and format than ALLTEL information pages. Sixty (60) days prior to the directory close date, BSLD will provide to ALLTEL the information page(s) in camera ready format. ALLTEL will have the right to approve or reject the format and content of such information page(s) and, with BSLD's agreement, ALLTEL may, but is not required to, revise the format and content of such information page(s).
- 2.10 ALLTEL will include BSLD specific information (i.e., business office, residence office, repair bureau, etc.) in the White Pages directory on an "index-type" information page, in alphabetical order along with other local service providers, at no charge. The space available to BSLD on such page will be 1/8<sup>th</sup> page in size. In order to have such information published, BSLD will provide ALLTEL, sixty (60) days prior to the directory close date, with its logo and information in the form of a camera ready copy, sized at 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a page. BSLD will be limited to a maximum of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a page in any single edition of an ALLTEL White Pages directory.
- 2.11 The Parties shall cooperate so that Yellow Page advertisements purchased by customers who switch to BSLD as their local service provider (including customers utilizing BSLD-assigned telephone numbers and BSLD customers utilizing local number portability (LNP)) are provided in accordance with standard ALLTEL practices. Yellow Page services will be offered to BSLD's customers on the same basis that they are offered to ALLTEL's customers. Such services will be provided through ALLTEL's yellow pages affiliate, its agent or assignee.

### 3.0 Service Provided - Other

- 3.1 ALLTEL will include in appropriate White Pages directories the primary alphabetical listings of all BSLD end users located within the local directory scope.
- 3.2 At no charge to BSLD, ALLTEL agrees to include one basic White Pages listing for each BSLD customer located within the geographic scope of its White Page Directories, and a courtesy Yellow Page listing for each BSLD business customer located within the geographical scope of its Yellow Page directories.
  - 3.2.1 A basic White Page listing is defined as a customer name, address, and either the BSLD assigned number for a customer or the number for which number portability is provided, but not both numbers. Basic White Pages listings of BSLD customers will be inter-filed with listings of ALLTEL and other LEC customers.
- 3.3 ALLTEL agrees to provide BSLD's customers secondary White Page listings at the rate listed in Exhibit A: Directories Price List.
- 3.4 BSLD will furnish to ALLTEL subscriber listing information pertaining to BSLD end users located within the local directory scope, along with such additional information as ALLTEL may require to prepare and print the alphabetical listings of said directory.
- 3.5 BSLD will provide its subscriber listing information to ALLTEL, in a manner and format prescribed by ALLTEL, via FAX.

- 3.6 BSLD will provide to ALLTEL a forecasted amount of the number of directories, which BSLD will need, for its customers prior to directory publication.
- 3.7 ALLTEL makes no guarantee as to the availability of directories beyond the forecasted amount provided by BSLD.
- 3.8 If BSLD desires subsequent directories after the initial distribution, ALLTEL, subject to the availability of such directories, agrees to provide subsequent directories at the YPPA rates in Exhibit A: Directories Price List.
- 3.9 ALLTEL will deliver White Pages directories to BSLD customers. The timing of delivery and the determination of which White Pages directories will be delivered (by customer address, NPA/NXX or other criteria), and the number of White Pages directories to be provided per customer, will be provided under the same terms that ALLTEL delivers White Pages directories to its own end users.
- 3.10 ALLTEL will distribute any subsequent directories in accordance with the same practices and procedures used by ALLTEL.
- 3.11 At its option, BSLD may purchase information pages (Customer Guide Pages) in the informational section of the ALLTEL White Pages directory covering the geographic area(s) it is serving. These pages will be in alphabetical order with other local service providers and will be no different in style, size, color and format than ALLTEL information pages. Sixty (60) days prior to the directory close date, BSLD will provide to ALLTEL the information page(s) in camera ready format. ALLTEL will have the right to approve or reject the format and content of such information page(s), and, with BSLD's agreement, ALLTEL may, but is not required to, revise the format and content of such information page(s).
- 3.12 ALLTEL will include BSLD specific information (i.e., business office, residence office, repair bureau, etc.) in the White Pages directory on an "index-type" information page, in alphabetical order along with other local service providers, at no charge. The space available to BSLD on such page will be 1/8<sup>th</sup> page in size. In order to have such information published, BSLD will provide ALLTEL with its logo and information in the form of a camera ready copy, sized at 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a page. BSLD will be limited to a maximum of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a page in any single edition of an ALLTEL White Pages directory.
- 3.13 The Parties shall cooperate so that Yellow Page advertisements purchased by customers who switch to BSLD as their local service provider (including customers utilizing BSLD-assigned telephone numbers and BSLD customers utilizing LNP) are provided in accordance with standard ALLTEL practices. Yellow Page services will be offered to BSLD's customers on the same basis that they are offered to ALLTEL's customers. Such services will be provided through ALLTEL's yellow pages affiliate, its agent or assignee.
- 3.14 ALLTEL agrees to include BSLD listings in its updating of the Directory Assistance (DA) provider used by ALLTEL for Alltel's end user customers. BSLD agrees that ALLTEL is only responsible for providing DA updates to the DA provider(s) that ALLTEL maintains an existing relationship with for use by Alltel's end user customer's. Should BSLD wish for its DA listings to be submitted to another DA provider, other than the DA provider ALLTEL uses, it is BSLD's sole responsibility to provide this information to such provider.

#### **4.0 Limitation of Liability and Indemnification**

- 4.1 ALLTEL will not be liable to BSLD for any losses or damages arising out of errors, interruptions, defects, failures, delays, or malfunctions of the White Pages services, including any and all

associated equipment and data processing systems, unless said losses or damages result from ALLTEL's gross negligence or willful or wanton or intentional misconduct. Any losses or damages for which ALLTEL is held liable under this Agreement to BSLD, shall in no event exceed the amount of the charges billed to BSLD for White Pages services with respect to the period beginning at the time notice of the error, interruption, defect, failure, or malfunction is received by ALLTEL to the time Service is restored.

- 4.2 Each Party agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other from any and all losses, damages, or other liability that may be incurred as a result of claims, demands, wrongful death actions, or other claims by any Party that arise out of end user customers' use of the White Pages services, or the negligence or wrongful act except to the extent any such losses, damages or other liability solely from ALLTEL's gross negligence or willful misconduct. Each Party will defend the other against all customer claims just as if it had provided such service to its customer with its own employees and will assert its contractual or tariff limitation of liability, if any, for the benefit of both Parties.
- 4.3 Each Party agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other from any claims, demands, or suits with respect to any infringement or invasion of privacy or confidentiality of any person or persons caused or claimed to be caused, directly, or indirectly, by employees or equipment associated with provision of the White Pages services, except to the extent any such losses, damages or other liability is based on or results from gross negligence or willful misconduct. This provision includes but is not limited to suits arising from disclosure of the telephone number, address, or name associated with the telephone called or the telephone used in connection with White Pages services.

## **5.0 Pricing**

- 5.1 Prices for White Pages services are as contained on Exhibit A: Directories Price List, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**EXHIBIT A: DIRECTORIES PRICE LIST**

**Price Per White Page listing: \$3.00**

**Price Per Single Sided Informational Page:**

**6x9**

1 additional information page	\$475.00
2 additional information pages	\$750.00

**9x11**

1 additional information page	\$1,225.00
2 additional information pages	\$1,440.00

**Price Per Book Copy Ordered after Initial Order: (See Below)**

DIR		DIRECTORY	WHOLESALE	RETAIL	
ST	CODE	NAME	PRICE	PRICE	SUBCODE
SC	66445	Inman	11.90	17.85	622
SC	66454	Kershaw	10.85	16.28	621
SC	66538	Lexington	15.55	23.33	620
SC	66730	St. Matthews	12.95	19.43	627

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## **ATTACHMENT 12: COMPENSATION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 For purposes of compensation under this Agreement, the telecommunications traffic exchanged between the Parties will be classified as Local Traffic, IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, InterLATA Interexchange Traffic, or Internet Service Provider Traffic. The Parties agree that, notwithstanding the classification of traffic by BSLD with respect to its end users the classification of traffic provided in this Agreement shall control with respect to compensation between the Parties under the terms of this Agreement. The provisions of this Attachment shall not apply to services provisioned by ALLTEL to BSLD as local Resale Services.
- 1.2 Calls originated by BSLD's end users and terminated to ALLTEL's end users (or vice versa) will be classified as "Local Traffic" under this Agreement if: (i) the call originates and terminates in the same ALLTEL Exchange; or (ii) originates and terminates within different ALLTEL Exchanges that share a common mandatory local calling area, e.g., mandatory Extended Area Service (EAS), mandatory Extended Local Calling Service (ELCS), or other like types of mandatory expanded local calling scopes as specified or defined by ALLTEL tariffs. Internet Service Provider traffic is not included in the compensation of local traffic.
- 1.3 The Parties agree that all traffic, other than ISP Bound Traffic and Local Traffic, that is terminated on the public switched network, regardless of the technology used to originate such traffic, including but not limited to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), will be assessed terminating charges at the appropriate jurisdictional rates, per the appropriate tariff or agreement governing such traffic.
- 1.4 By entering into this Agreement, both Parties expressly reserve the right to advocate their respective positions before state and/or federal regulatory bodies, whether in complaint dockets, arbitration's under Section 252 of the Act, rulemaking dockets, or in any legal challenges stemming from such proceedings with regard to the treatment of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) traffic for intercarrier compensation purposes.
- 1.5 The Parties agree that until the FCC enters a final, binding, and non-appealable order ("Final Order") determining the appropriate compensation mechanism for VoIP traffic, the Parties shall exchange traffic and compensate each other in accordance with Section 1.4. At such time as a Final Order becomes applicable, the Parties agree to amend this Agreement to conform with the findings of the Final Order.

### **2.0 Responsibilities of the Parties**

- 2.1 Each Party will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of the data it submits to the other Party.
- 2.2 Each Party will provide the other Party the originating Calling Party Number (CPN) with respect to each call terminated on the other Party's network to enable each Party to issue bills in a complete and timely fashion. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided, including CPN.
- 2.3 Neither Party shall strip, modify or alter any of the data signaling or billing information provided to the other Party.
- 2.4 Each Party shall identify and make available to the other Party, at no additional charge, a contact person for the handling of any billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of this Attachment.



- 2.5 All calls exchanged without CPN will be billed as IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, if the failure to transmit CPN is not caused by technical malfunctions. In the event that technical malfunctions result in lack of transmission of CPN, the Parties will cooperate in attempting to resolve such technical malfunctions and the Parties will develop and utilize mutually agreeable surrogate methods for determining compensation that shall be utilized until the technical malfunctions are resolved.

**3.0 Reciprocal Compensation for Termination of Local Traffic and Internet Service Provider Traffic**

- 3.1 Each Party will be compensated for the exchange of Local Traffic, as defined in Section 1.2 of this Attachment, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.0.
- 3.2 The Parties agree to reciprocally exchange Local Traffic and Internet Service Provider Traffic between their networks. Each Party shall bill its end-users for such traffic and will be entitled to retain all revenues from such traffic without payment of further compensation to the other Party (i.e., bill and keep).
- 3.3 Any interexchange telecommunications traffic utilizing the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), regardless of transport protocol method, where the originating and terminating points, end-to-end points, are in different LATAs, or in different local calling areas as defined by the originating Party and delivered to the terminating Party using switched access services shall be considered Switched Access Traffic. The traffic described herein shall not be considered local traffic. Irrespective of transport protocol method used, a call that originates in one LATA and terminates in another LATA (i.e. the end-to-end points of the call) shall not be compensated as local.

**4.0 Reciprocal Compensation for Termination of IntraLATA Intercompany Traffic**

- 4.1 Compensation for termination of intrastate intraLATA intercompany traffic exchanged between the Parties will be at the applicable terminating access rates for Message Telephone Service (MTS) and originating access rates for 800 Service, including the Carrier Common Line (CCL) charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's intrastate access service tariff or price list. Compensation for termination of interstate intraLATA intercompany traffic exchanged between the Parties will be at the applicable terminating access rates for MTS and originating access rates for 800 Service including the CCL charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's interstate access service tariff.
- 4.2 In the event that BSLD does not have a filed intraLATA Interexchange tariff for access service, BSLD agrees to utilize rates that do not exceed ALLTEL's tariffed access rates.

**5.0 Billing Arrangements for Compensation for Termination of IntraLATA, Local Traffic**

- 5.1 With respect to those Exchanges where BSLD intends to provide Local Exchange Service, BSLD will, at a minimum, obtain a separate NXX code for each Exchange or group of Exchanges that share a common Mandatory Local Calling Scope. At such time as both Parties have implemented billing and routing capabilities to determine traffic jurisdiction on a basis other than NXX codes, separate NXX codes as specified in this paragraph will not be required. At such time as BSLD requests ALLTEL to establish interconnection to enable BSLD to provide Exchange Services, the Parties will determine the number of NXXs necessary to identify the jurisdictional nature of traffic for intercompany compensation. At such time as BSLD requests additional points of interconnection, the Parties will appropriately define the number of NXXs necessary for the new interconnection points.

- 5.2 Bills rendered by either Party to the other will be due and payable as specified in the General Terms and Conditions, Section 8.0.

**6.0 Alternate Billed Traffic**

- 6.1 All call types routed between the networks must be accounted for, and revenues settled among the Parties. Certain types of calls will require exchange of billing records between the Parties including intraLATA alternate billed calls (e.g. calling card, bill-to-third party, and collect records and LEC/CTU-provided Toll Free Service records). The Parties will utilize, where possible existing accounting and settlement systems to bill, exchange records and settle revenue.
- 6.1.1 The exchange of billing records for alternate billed calls (e.g., calling card, bill-to-third, and collect) will be through the existing CMDS processes, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing.
- 6.1.2 Inter-Company Settlements ("ICS") revenues will be settled through the Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System ("CATS"). Each Party will make its own arrangements with respect to participation in the CATS processes, through direct participation or a hosting arrangement with a direct participant.
- 6.1.3 Non-ICS revenue is defined as revenues associated with collect calls, calling card calls, and billed to third number calls which originate, terminate and are billed within the same Telcordia, formerly known as Bellcore, Client Company Territory. The Parties will negotiate and execute an agreement for settlement of non-ICS revenue, if necessary. The Parties agree that the CMDS system can be used to transport the call records for this traffic.
- 6.1.4 Each Party will provide the appropriate call records to the other for toll free IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, thus permitting each Party to bill its subscribers for the inbound Toll Free Service. Each Party may charge its tariffed rate for such record provision. No adjustments to data contained in tapes, disks or Network Data Mover will be made by a Party without the mutual agreement of the Parties.

**7.0 Issuance of Bills**

- 7.1 Each Party shall establish monthly billing dates and the bill date will be the same day each month. All bills will be delivered to the other Party no later than ten (10) calendar days from the bill date and at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the payment due date (as described in this Attachment), whichever is earlier. If a Party fails to receive a billing within the time period specified in this Section, the corresponding payment due date will be extended by the number of days the bill is late in being delivered.

**ATTACHMENT 13: NUMBERING**

**1.0     Numbering**

- 1.1     Nothing in this Section will be construed to limit or otherwise adversely impact in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any NANP numbers including, but not limited to, central office (NXX) codes pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines, or to establish, by tariff or otherwise, Exchanges and Rating Points corresponding to such NXX codes. Each Party is responsible for administering the NXX codes assigned to it.
- 1.2     Each Party agrees to make available to the other, up-to-date listings of its own assigned NPA-NXX codes, along with associated Rating Points and Exchanges.
- 1.3     It will be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to the other Party's assigned NXX codes at all times. Neither Party will impose fees or charges on the other Party for such required programming and updating activities.
- 1.4     It will be the responsibility of each Party to input required data into the Telcordia Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDs) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG).
- 1.5     Neither Party is responsible for notifying the other Parties' end users of any changes in dialing arrangements, including those due to NPA exhaust, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the FCC, or a court.

**2.0     NXX Migration**

- 2.1     Where a Party (first Party) has activated, dedicated or reserved an entire NXX for a single end user, if such end user chooses to receive service from the other Party (second Party), the first Party shall cooperate with the second Party to have the entire NXX reassigned in the LERG (and associated industry databases, routing tables, etc.) to an end office operated by the second Party. Such transfer will require development of a transition process to minimize impact on the network and on the end user(s) service and will be subject to appropriate industry lead-times (currently 45 days) for movements of NXXs from one switch to another.

**ATTACHMENT 14: NUMBER PORTABILITY**

**1.0 Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP)**

- 1.1 The FCC First Report and Order in CC Docket 95-116 requires "...all LECs to implement a long term service provider portability solution that meets our performance criteria in the 100 large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) no later than October 1, 1997, and to complete deployment in those MSAs by December 31, 1998." While the FCC declined "...to choose a particular technology for providing number portability", they did establish performance criteria for permanent number portability and aligned expectations with the statutory definition of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 ordering Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP). In a follow-up First Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, the commission determined that the technology that meets the performance criteria is Location Routing Number (LRN). LRN is being used by the telecommunications industry to provide SPNP.

**2.0 Terms, Conditions Under Which ALLTEL Will Provide SPNP**

- 2.1 ALLTEL will not offer SPNP services for NXX codes 555, 976, 950.
- 2.2 Prior to commencement of any service porting or LRN query service, the Parties must have an approved interconnection agreement along with a conforming, functional network interconnection, pursuant to Attachment 4 *Network Interconnection Architecture*, between and among involved switches and exchanges.
- 2.3 ALLTEL will only provide SPNP services and facilities where technically feasible, subject to the availability of facilities, and only from properly equipped central offices. SPNP applies only when a customer with an active account wishes to change local Carriers while retaining the telephone number or numbers associated with the account.
- 2.4 An SPNP telephone number may be assigned by BSLD only to BSLD's customers located within ALLTELs rate center, which is associated with the NXX of the ported number.
- 2.5 ALLTEL will deploy SPNP at a location within six (6) months after receipt of a Bona Fide Request from BSLD as provided in §6.0, and subject to approval of this Agreement by the Commission and completion of the network preparation specified herein.
- 2.6 BSLD shall be charged a Service Order charge, pursuant to the Local Exchange Tariff, for each LSR submitted under this Attachment.
- 2.7 If BSLD requests a coordinated cutover the following charges will be applied:
- |                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Basic Time, Half Hour:   | \$25.57 |
| Overtime, Half Hour:     | \$38.36 |
| Premium Time, Half Hour: | \$51.15 |
- 2.8 If BSLD cancels a conversion of an end user, BSLD will notify ALLTEL of the cancellation by 2:00 Central Time on the day prior to the due date requested on the LSR. If BSLD notifies ALLTEL of a cancellation after 2:00 Central Time on the day prior to the due date requested on the LSR ("Late Notice"), BSLD will pay the applicable time and material charge contained in Exhibit A Price List. In the event of a Late Notice, ALLTEL does not guarantee that service disruption will not occur to the end user.

- 2.9 If BSLD cancels or makes a change to an LSR due date, the original LSR will be cancelled, BSLD will issue a new LSR and BSLD shall be charged an additional Service Order charge, pursuant to the Local Exchange Tariff, for each LSR submitted under this Attachment.

**3.0 Obligations of BSLD**

- 3.1 Each Party must offer proof of its certification with applicable regional Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) prior to requesting SPNP from the other Party.
- 3.2 Each Party must advise the NPAC of telephone numbers that it imports and the associated data identified in industry forums as is required for SPNP.
- 3.3 After the initial deployment of SPNP in an MSA, if BSLD wants an ALLTEL switch to become LRN capable, BSLD must submit a Bona Fide request as provided in §6.0. ALLTEL will make the requested switch LRN capable within the time frame required by the FCC.
- 3.4 BSLD will conform to NANC guidelines and LERG administration rules in requesting ALLTEL to open an NPA-NXX for portability in an LRN capable switch.
- 3.5 BSLD is responsible for coordinating with the local E911 and Public Services Answering Point (PSAP) coordinators to insure a seamless transfer of end user emergency services.
- 3.6 BSLD is required to conform to industry standard Local Service Request (LSR) format and guidelines in ordering and administration of individual service/number ports.
- 3.7 A service order processing charge (Service Order Charge) will be applied to each service order issued by ALLTEL to process a request for installation, disconnection, rearrangement, changes to or record orders pursuant to this section.

**4.0 Obligations of Both Parties**

- 4.1 When a ported telephone number becomes vacant, e.g., the telephone number is no longer in service by the original end user; the ported telephone number will be released back to the Local Service Provider owning the switch in which the telephone number's thousand block or NXX is native, in compliance with national portability and pooling standards.
- 4.2 Either Party may block default routed calls from entering the public switched network when necessary to prevent network overload, congestion, or failure.
- 4.3 The Parties will conform to industry guidelines referenced herein in preparing their networks for SPNP and in porting numbers from one network to another.
- 4.4 The Parties will perform all standard SPNP certification and intra-company testing prior to scheduling intercompany testing between the Parties' interconnected networks.
- 4.5 Each Party will designate a single point of contact (SPOC) to schedule and perform required test. These tests will be performed during a mutually agreed time frame and must conform to industry portability testing and implementation criteria in force in the NPAC region.

**5.0 Limitations of Service**

- 5.1 Telephone numbers will be ported only within ALLTEL rate centers as approved by the State Commission.
- 5.2 ALLTEL and BSLD porting rate center areas must comprise identical geographic locations and have common boundaries.
- 5.3 Telephone numbers associated with ALLTEL Official Communications Services (OCS) NXXs will not be ported.
- 5.4 Telephone numbers in NXXs dedicated to choke networks will not be ported.

**6.0 Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP) Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process**

- 6.1 The Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP) Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process is the process for BSLD to request that SPNP be deployed in ALLTEL exchanges that are not then capable of LRN query service.
- 6.2 BSLD may request that SPNP be deployed by ALLTEL in its switches located in the MSAs. ALLTEL will enable SPNP in the requested switches within six (6) months of receipt of BFR, based on the beginning dates for each MSA and subject to State Commission approval of an interconnection agreement with respect to the location of the requested switch.
- 6.3 A BFR with respect to opening an ALLTEL switch for SPNP must be made in the form of a letter from BSLD to:

ALLTEL  
Attn: Interconnection Services  
1 Allied Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72202

- 6.4 The BFR must specify the following:
  - 6.4.1 The MSA in which requested switch(es) are located.
  - 6.4.2 ALLTEL switch(es), by CLLI codes, which are being requested to become SPNP capable.
  - 6.4.3 Specific, resident NXX codes requested to open in each ALLTEL switch on the BFR.
  - 6.4.4 The date when SPNP capability is requested for each ALLTEL switch on the BFR; however, the requested date must fall within the governing FCC schedules and interval guidelines. .
  - 6.4.5 CLLI and NXXs of BSLD switches serving the exchanges associated with the relevant ALLTEL switches.

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## **ATTACHMENT 18: PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

### **1.0 General**

- 1.1 ALLTEL will use its best efforts to satisfy all service standards, intervals, measurements, specifications, performance requirements, technical requirements, and performance standards that are specified in this Agreement or are required by law or regulation. In addition, ALLTEL's performance under this Agreement shall be provided to BSLD at parity with the performance ALLTEL provides itself for like service(s).

### **2.0 Interconnection**

#### **2.1 Trunk Provisioning Intervals**

##### **2.1.1 Access Service Request (ASR)**

Positive acknowledgment of receipt of a non-valid ASR will be made within two business days, provided the ASR is received before 3PM Eastern Standard Time (1PM Mountain Standard Time.) The start time for determining the FOC interval will commence with receipt of a valid ASR. A non-valid ASR will not start the FOC interval.

##### **2.1.2 Firm Order Confirmation (FOC)**

An FOC confirming the due date will be sent within 2 business days (16 business hours) after receipt of a valid ASR subject to facility availability. Subject to availability of facilities service will be implemented (trunks in service) within 20 business days of receipt of a valid ASR.

##### **2.1.3 Performance Expectation**

Provided the conditions are met under 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 proceeding, ALLTEL's performance expectation is to provide 100% due dates met within reporting month. If service levels fall below 95% of the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

#### **2.2 Trunking Grade of Service**

##### **2.2.1 Exchange Access (IXC Toll Traffic)**

For exchange access traffic routed via an access tandem blocking on each leg will be held to .005 (1/2% blockage).

##### **2.2.2 All Other**

All other final routed traffic will be held to .01 (1% blockage).

##### **2.2.3 Performance Expectation**

Provided the conditions are met under 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 preceding, ALLTEL's performance expectation is to provide traffic flow 100% of the time. If service levels fall below the

performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

## **2.3 Trunk Service Restoration**

### **2.3.1 Service Affecting**

Service affecting trunk service trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance ALLTEL provides itself for like service(s). Service affecting trouble is defined as a condition or event affecting 20% or more of the total trunk group and overflows are experienced.

### **2.3.2 Non Service Affecting**

Non service affecting trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance ALLTEL provides itself for like service(s).

### **2.3.3 Performance Expectation**

Zero loss of service due to downtime. If service levels fall below the Performance Expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days. Specific time-frames will be listed relative to performance.

## **3.0 Maintenance Intervals**

### **3.1. Service Affecting**

Service affecting maintenance trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance ALLTEL provides itself for like service(s).

### **3.2 Non Service Affecting**

Non service affecting trouble will be responded to at parity with the performance ALLTEL provides itself for like service(s).

### **3.3 Performance Expectation**

Zero loss of service due to downtime. If service levels fall below the Performance Expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days. Specific time-frames will be listed relative to performance.

## **4.0 Local Service Provisioning Intervals**

### **4.1 Local Service Request (LSR)**

Positive acknowledgement of receipt of a non-valid LSR, and the reason(s) for rejection, will be made within two business days, provided the LSR is received before 3PM Eastern Standard Time (1PM Mountain Standard Time). The start time for determining the Local Service Request Confirmation (LSCN) interval will commence with receipt of a valid LSR. A non-valid LSR will not start the LSCN interval.

**4.2 Local Service Request Confirmation (LSCN)**

An LSCN confirming the due date will be sent within 2 business days (16 business hours) after receipt of a valid LSR subject to facility availability.

**4.3 Performance Expectation**

Provided the conditions are met under 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 proceeding, ALLTEL's performance expectation is to provide 100% due dates within the reporting month. If service levels fall below 95% of the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

**ATTACHMENT 19: BONA FIDE REQUEST (BFR) PROCESS**

- 1.1 A Bona Fide Request (BFR) must be used when BSLD requests a change to any Services and/or Elements provided hereunder, including features, capabilities, or functionality.
- 1.2 A BFR shall be submitted in writing by BSLD and shall specifically identify the required service date, technical requirements, space requirements and/or such specifications that clearly define the request such that ALLTEL has sufficient information to analyze and prepare a response. Such a request also shall include BSLD's designation of the request as being (i) pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 or (ii) pursuant to the needs of the business.
- 1.3 Although not expected to do so, BSLD may cancel, without penalty, a BFR in writing at any time. ALLTEL will then cease analysis of the request.
- 1.4 Within two (2) business days of its receipt, ALLTEL shall acknowledge in writing, the receipt of the BFR and identify a single point of contact and any additional information needed to process the request.
- 1.5 Except under extraordinary circumstances, within twenty (20) days of its receipt of a BFR, ALLTEL shall provide to BSLD a preliminary analysis of the BFR. The preliminary analysis will include ALLTEL's proposed price (plus or minus 25 percent) and state whether ALLTEL can meet BSLD's requirements, the requested availability date, or, if ALLTEL cannot meet such date, provide an alternative proposed date together with a detailed explanation as to why ALLTEL is not able to meet BSLD's requested availability date. ALLTEL also shall indicate in this analysis its agreement or disagreement with BSLD's designation of the request as being pursuant to the Act or pursuant to the needs of the business. If ALLTEL does not agree with BSLD's designation, it may utilize the Dispute Resolution Process described in the General Terms and Conditions §9.0. In no event, however, shall any such dispute delay ALLTEL's process of the request. If ALLTEL determines that it is not able to provide BSLD with a preliminary analysis within twenty (20) days of ALLTEL's receipt of a Bona Fide Need request, ALLTEL will inform BSLD as soon as practicable. The Parties will then determine a mutually agreeable date for receipt of the preliminary analysis.
- 1.6 As soon as possible, but in no event more than forty-five (45) days after receipt of the request, ALLTEL shall provide BSLD with a BFR quote which will include, at a minimum, the firm availability date, the applicable rates and the installation intervals, and a price quote.
- 1.7 Unless BSLD agrees otherwise, all proposed prices shall be pursuant to the pricing principles of this Agreement, in accordance with the Act, and any applicable FCC and Commission rules and regulations. Payments for services purchased under a BFR will be made as specified in this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed to by BSLD.
- 1.8 Within thirty (30) days after receiving the firm BFR quote from ALLTEL, BSLD will notify ALLTEL in writing of its acceptance or rejection of ALLTEL's proposal. If at any time an agreement cannot be reached as to the terms and conditions or price of the request, or if ALLTEL responds that it cannot or will not offer the requested item in the BFR and BSLD deems the item essential to its business operations, and deems ALLTEL's position to be inconsistent with the Act, FCC, or Commission regulations and/or the requirements of this Agreement, the Dispute Resolution Process set for in the General Terms and Conditions, §9.0 of the Agreement may be used by either Party to reach a resolution.

## **ATTACHMENT 20: DEFINITIONS**

Definitions of the terms used in this Agreement are listed below. The Parties agree that certain terms may be defined elsewhere in this Agreement, as well as terms not defined shall be construed in accordance with their customary meaning in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

**"Access Service Request" or "ASR"** means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering Access Services. The ASR may be used to order trunking and facilities between ALLTEL and BSLD for local interconnection.

**"Act"** means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.), as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as may be subsequently amended or, as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission having authority to interpret the Act within its state of jurisdiction.

**"ALLTEL"** has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

**"Ancillary Services"** are services which support, but, are not required for interconnection of telecommunications networks between two or more parties, e.g., 911 (if applicable) and Directory Services.

**"Automatic Location Identification" or "ALI"** is a feature developed for E911 systems that provides for a visual display of the caller's telephone number, address, and the means of the emergency response agencies that are responsible for that address. The Competitive Local Exchange Company will provide ALI record information in the National Number Association (NENA) version #2 format.

**"Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System" or "ALI/DMS"** means the emergency service (E911/911) database containing subscriber location information (including name, address, telephone number, and sometimes special information from the local service provider) used to determine to which Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to route the call.

**"Calling Party Number" or "CPN"** is a feature of Signaling System 7 ("SS7") protocol whereby the 10-digit number of the calling party is forwarded from the end office.

**"CLASS (Custom Local Area Signaling Service) and Custom Features"** means a grouping of optional enhancements to basic local exchange service that offers special call handling features to residential and single-line business customers (e.g., call waiting, call forwarding and automatic redial).

**"Commission" or "PUC" or "PSC"** means the state administrative agency to which the United States Congress or state legislature has delegated authority to regulate the operations of Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs") as defined in the Act.

**"Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS"** means a special network, fully separate from the transmission path of the public switched network that digitally transmits call setup and network control data.

**"Confidential Information"** has the meaning set forth in §6.0 of the General Terms and Conditions.

**"Contract Year"** means a twelve (12) month period during the term of the contract commencing on the Effective Date and each anniversary thereof.

**"Customer"** means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental customer of services covered by the Agreement, and includes the term "End User". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

**"Customer Proprietary Network Information" or "CPNI"** means information that relates to the quantity, technical configuration, type, destination, and amount of a Telecommunications Service subscribed to by any

customer of a Telecommunications Carrier, and that is made available to the carrier by the customer solely by virtue of the carrier customer relationship; and information contained in the bills pertaining to telephone exchange service or telephone toll service received by a customer of a carrier.

**"Discloser"** means that Party to this Agreement which has disclosed Confidential Information to the other Party.

**"E911 Service"** is a method of routing 911 calls to a PSAP that uses customer location data in the ALL/DMS to determine the PSAP to which a call should be routed.

**"Effective Date"** is the date indicated in the Preface on which the Agreement shall become effective.

**"End Office"** means a local ALLTEL switching point where ALLTEL end user customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to the network.

**"End User"** means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental customer of services covered by the Agreement and includes the term "Customer". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

**"Enhanced White Pages Listings"** means optional features available for residential White Pages Directory Listings (e.g., bold, italics, lines of distinction).

**"Exchange"** is the geographic territory delineated as an exchange area for ALLTEL by official commission boundary maps.

**"Exchange Access"** is defined in the Act.

**"Exchange Services"** are two-way switched voice-grade telecommunications services with access to the public switched network with originate and terminate within an exchange.

**"FCC"** means the Federal Communications Commission.

**"ICB"** means individual case basis.

**"Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" or "ILEC"** has the meaning given the term in the Act.

**"Interconnection"** has the meaning given the term in the Act and refers to the connection of separate pieces of equipment, facilities, or platforms between or within networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic.

**"Interconnection Agreement"** means the agreement between the Parties entitled "Interconnection Agreement Under §§251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996," dated July 16, 1996.

**"Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC"** means a telecommunications provider that provides long distance communications services between LATAs and authorized by the Commission to provide long distance communications services.

**"InterLATA"** has the meaning given the term in the Act.

**"IntraLATA Toll Traffic"** means all IntraLATA calls provided by a LEC other than traffic completed in the LECs local exchange boundary.

**"Interconnection Point" or "IP"** is the point of demarcation at a technically feasible point within ALLTEL's interconnected network within the LATA, as specified in *Attachment 4* Section 2.1.1, where the networks of ALLTEL and BSLD directly interconnect for the exchange of traffic.

**"Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA"** has the meaning given to the term in the Act.

**"Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC"** means the incumbent carrier that provides facility-based Exchange Services, which has universal-service and carrier-of-last-resort obligations.

**"Local Service Provider" or "BSLD"** means a non-incumbent carrier licensed by the Commission with the appropriate certification (e.g., a Certificate of Authorization or Service Provider Certificate of Authorization) and authority necessary to provide Exchange Services.

**"Local Service Request" or "LSR"** means an industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks, circuits and/or facilities associated with unbundled Network Elements.

**"911 Service"** means a universal telephone number, which gives the public direct access to the PSAP. Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.

**"Operating Company Number" or "OCN"** (AOCN or Administrative OCN) means nationally recognized company codes set forth in Bellcore's LERG that will be used as the official identification code for each company that provides local exchange telephone service.

**"Parties,"** means ALLTEL and BSLD collectively.

**"Party"** means either ALLTEL or BSLD as applicable.

**"P.01 Transmission Grade of Service"** means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.

**"Percent Local Usage" or "PLU"** is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local intraLATA toll minutes between exchange carriers sent over Local Interconnection Trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLVI, 900, 976, transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of the PLU.

**"Public Safety Answering Point" or "PSAP"** is the public safety communications center where 911 calls placed by the public for a specific geographic area will be answered.

**"Recipient"** means the Party to this Agreement, which has received Confidential Information from the other Party.

**"Signaling System 7" or "SS7"** means a signaling protocol used by the CCS network.

**"Telephone Exchange Service"** means wireline exchange connections amongst LEC end users.

**"Telecommunications"** has the meanings given in the Act.

**"Termination"** means the switching of Local Traffic at the terminating carrier's end office switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called Party.

**"Territory"** means the incumbent local exchange areas within the states identified in Appendix A

**"Undefined Terms"** The Parties acknowledge that terms may appear in the Agreement that are not defined and agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their end-user usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.



**“Work Locations”** means any real estate that ALLTEL owns, leases or licenses or in which it holds easements or other rights to use, or does use, in connection with this Agreement.

**ATTACHMENT 21: ACRONYMS**

ALLTEL	ALLTEL
AMA	Automated Message Accounting
ASR	Access Service Request
BAN	Billing Account Number
BFR	Bona Fide Request
BRADS	Bellcore Rating Administrative Data Systems
CAP	Competitive Access Provider
CATS	Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System
CCL	Carrier Common Line
CCS	Common Channel Signaling
CLASS	Custom Local Area Signaling Service
CMD5	Centralized Message Distribution System
CPN	Calling Party Number
CPNI	Customer Propriety Network Information
EAS	Extended Area Service
ELCS	Extended Local Calling Service
EMI	Exchange Message Interface
EUCL	End User Common Line
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FOC	Firm Order Commitment
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
IP	Interconnection Point
ISDN	Integrated Digital Services Network
ISDNUP	Integrated Digital Services Network User Part
IXC	Interexchange Carrier
LATA	Local Access and Transport Area
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LERG	Local Exchange Routing Guide
LOA	Letter of Authority
LRN	Local Routing Number
LSCN	Local Service Request Confirmation
BSLD	Local Service Provider
LSR	Local Service Request
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MTP	Message Transfer Part
MTS	Message Telephone Service
NEBS	Network Equipment Building System
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association
NIIF	Network Interoperability Interface Forum
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NPAC	Number Portability Administration Center
OCN	Operating Company Number
OLI	Originating Line Information
PIC	Primary Interexchange Carrier
PLU	Percent Local Usage
PON	Purchase Order Number
PSC	Public Service Commission
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RDBS	Routing Data Base Systems
SLC	Subscriber Line Charge

SONET	Synchronous Optical Network
SPNP	Service Number Portability
SS7	Signaling System 7
STP	Signaling Transfer Point
TCAP	Transaction Capabilities Application Part

APPENDIX A – Billing Dispute Form

Billing Company Contact Information Section:				
1. Billing Company Name:		2. Billing Contact Name:		
3. Billing Contact Address:		4. Billing Contact Phone:		
		5. Billing Contact Fax #:		
		6. Billing Contact Email:		
Disputing Company Contact Information Section:				
7. Disputing Company Name:		8. Disputing Contact Name:		
9. Disputing Contact Address:		10. Disputing Contact Phone:		
		11. Disputing Contact Fax #:		
		12. Disputing Contact Email:		
General Dispute Section:				
13. Date of Claim: (yyyy-mm-dd):		14. Status:	15. Claim/Audit Number:	
16. Service Type:				
17. ACNA:	18. OCN:	19. CIC:	20. BAN:	21. Invoice Number(s):
22. Bill Date:		24. Dispute Reason Code:		25. Dispute Desc:
23. Billed Amount: \$				
26. Disputed Amount: \$			29. Dispute Bill Date From:	
27. Disputed Amount Withheld: \$			Dispute Bill Date Thru:	
28. Disputed Amount Paid: \$				
Dispute Information Section:				
30. Rate Element/USOC:		31. Rate: Billed Correct		
<b>Factor Information:</b> 32. PIU: Billed Correct 33. PLU: Billed Correct 34. BIP: Billed Correct 35. Other Factors: Billed Correct		36: Jurisdiction <input type="checkbox"/> Non Jurisdictional <input type="checkbox"/> Inter/Interstate <input type="checkbox"/> Intra/Interstate <input type="checkbox"/> Intra/Intrastate <input type="checkbox"/> Inter/Intrastate <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
		37. Mileage: Billed Correct 38. Contract Name/##: 39. Business/Residence Indicator: 40: State: 41: LATA:		
Facilities/Dedicated Circuit Dispute Information Section:				
42. PON: 43. SON: 44. EC Circuit ID: 45. Circuit Location: 46. IC Circuit ID: 47. CFA :		48. TN/All: 49. Point Code: 50. USOC Quantity: 51. Two-Six Code:		
52. Facilities From Date:		Thru Date:		

<b>Usage Dispute Information Section:</b>		
53. End Office CLLI:		54. TN/Alt:
55. Usage Billed Units/Quantity:		56. Usage Billed Units/Quantity Disputed:
57. Directionality: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Orig. <input type="checkbox"/> Term. <input type="checkbox"/> Combination		58. Query: 59. Query Type:
60. OC&C SON:		61. OC&C PON:
62. Usage From Date: Thru Date:		
<b>Information Section:</b>		
63. Tax Dispute Amount:		64. Tax exemption form attached : <input type="checkbox"/>
65. Invoice(s) LPC billed:		
66. LPC paid, date of payment:		
<b>OTHER</b>		
67. Other remarks		
<b>Resolution Information Section:</b>		
68. Resolution Date:		
69. Resolution Amount: \$		70. Resolution Reason:
71. Adjustment Bill Date:		72. Adjustment Invoice Number:
73. Adjustment Phrase Code(s):	74. Adjustment BAN/	75. Adjustment SON:
76. Disputed Amount: \$		77. Amount Credited: \$
78. Bill Section Adjustment will appear on: OC&C ____ Adjustment ____		
79. Resolution remarks:		

**Exhibit A: Price List**

	Monthly Recurring	Nonrecurring Charges	
		Initial	Additional
<b><u>Time and Material Charges</u></b>			
Basic Time per half (1/2) hour		\$20.45	\$20.45
Overtime per half (1/2) hour		\$30.68	\$30.68
Premium Time per half (1/2) hour		\$40.91	\$40.91
<b><u>Coordinated Cut-Over Charge</u></b>			
Basic Time per half (1/2) hour		\$20.45	\$20.45
Overtime per half (1/2) hour		\$30.68	\$30.68
Premium Time per half (1/2) hour		\$40.91	\$40.91